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THE HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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No. 1

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BIRTH.

At Nagasaki, on the 22nd June, the wife of G. E. MOSLEY (of Singapore), of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On Saturday, 23rd ult., at Kobe, WILHELM SCHMIDT, aged 46, a native of Hamburg.

At Ventnor, Isle of Wight, VIRGINIA, widow of the late JOSEPH ROBERT EDGER, formerly member of the Legislative Council of Hongkong; and dearly beloved mother of Mrs. BURGE, of Shanghai. By telegraph.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 4th July, Mrs. MARGARET NOLAN, of Wexford, Ireland, aged 60 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 1st June arrived, per M. M. steamer *Tonkin*, on the 2nd July (31 days); the American mail of the 6th June arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 4th July (28 days); and the English mail of the 8th June arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Malta*, on the 6th July (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The news of the week from the North will be found in the telegrams from our correspondents on p. 5.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, and party arrived in Hongkong on the 30th ult. by the M. M. steamer *Lao*.

H.M.S. *Plover*, Lt.-Comdr. Cowper, arrived in Hongkong harbour on the 4th inst. from Singapore; she left on the 28th ult. She is in a condition for immediate service.

The local Chinese officials of Shanghai on the 30th ult. remitted through the Provincial Treasurer of Nanking to H.B.M.'s Consul-General a sum amounting to \$30,000 in all, contributed by them to the Indian Famine Fund. The Treasurer at Soochow contributed Tls. 5,000 to the same fund.

M. Doumer, the Governor-General of French Indo-China, is expected to leave Saigon for France by mail on the 23th September.

The Telegraph Companies on the 5th inst. reported that on account of the irregularity and increasing uncertainty of the Chinese telegraphic service between Chefoo and Shanghai, all messages are being duplicated by steamer between the two ports.

A Seoul telegram says that the King of Corea has decided to remove his capital to a place in the Pyeng-an province, in view of the present situation in North China. The telegram also adds that another battalion of Corean troops will be dispatched north for the defence of the Corean frontier.

The troubles in China seem to have affected Formosa. News is published about a junk smuggling a large quantity of arms and ammunition to a place on the coast in the neighbourhood of Takow, and about symptoms of renewed disturbance in the neighbourhood of Kagi. The Authorities are said to be acting vigorously.

The U. S. flagship *Brooklyn*, which reached Hongkong from Manila on the 28th ult. with Admiral Remy and some 340 men, left for the north on the 30th ult. and on the same day the U. S. S. *Princeton* arrived from Manila. She left for Canton on the 1st inst. at 7 a.m. for the purpose of seeing how things are there.

A new crew has been detailed at Devonport to recommission Her Majesty's gunboat *Esk* on the China Station. The *Esk* has already been twenty years in China, and her machinery is reported to be in fairly good condition. Her hull, however, is much worn, and in need of extensive repairs, and this is to be done by private contract at Shanghai. The new crew for the *Esk* took passage to China in the cruiser *Argonaut*.

The telegraph line across the Malay Peninsula, from Singora to Kedah, has now been completed and opened, so that it has only to be joined on with Province Wellesley and Penang to give the public a new and direct line of communication between Bangkok and Singapore. It is understood that Mr. Collmann, the Adviser to the Siamese Post and Telegraph Department, is shortly going on a tour of inspection over the whole line.

Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, who is reported murdered by the Chinese troops on the 13th ult., came out to China in 1880 and became a student interpreter in 1881. Afterwards he was interpreter at Canton and in 1883 he distinguished himself, in company with certain other residents, mainly German, in the putting down of the riot in Shameen which broke out on the 10th September owing to the killing of a Chinaman by an European. In 1884 he was made Secretary of the Legation at Peking. There he remained until 1891, after which he was appointed German Minister to Mexico. He married a rich American lady, and in 1899 returned to Peking as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. He was a good Chinese conversationalist and spoke the Peking dialect very fluently. It appears from the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 1st inst. that he was attacked and wounded on the 18th June on his way to the Tsungli Yamén. He died at the Tsungli Yamén. Interpreter Cordes was also wounded, but reached one of the Legations.

The Dutch cruiser *Holland*, which arrived in Hongkong harbour on the inst., was built at Amsterdam in 1896 at a cost of £285,700. Her displacement is 3,900 tons, her draught 17 ft. 8 in., and her deck armour 2 in. thick. Her armament consists of two 5.9 quick-firers, six 4.7 guns, four 2.9, eight 1.4, four muzzle-loaders; and she has four torpedo-tubes. Her speed was 19.6 knots on her trial trip.

From a classified list of the Japanese Navy published in the Japanese native press, it seems that Japan has at present 135 vessels, including 6 first-class and 2 second-class battleships; 6 first-class, 9 second-class, and 5 third-class cruisers; 2 first-class and 13 second-class gunboats; 4 despatch boats and 10 coast defence ships; 1 torpedo tender and 12 torpedo-boat destroyers and catchers; as well as 7 first-class, 31 second-class, and 27 third-class torpedo-boats. These figures, however, include the battleships and cruisers now being built in Europe and also a despatch boat is under construction at Yokosuka.

The *Pinang Gazette* points out the great mixture of race and religion in the regiments ordered from India to China. The 1st Bengal Lancers or Skinner's Horse consists of 4 squadrons (Hindustani Muhammadans); the 1st Madras Infantry or the Pioneers, of 1 co. (Muhammadans) 2 cos. (Tamils) 1 co. (Telugus), and 4 cos. (Mixed); the 22nd Bombay Infantry, of 2 cos. (Jugars), 2 cos. (Mers), 2 cos. (Rajputs), and 2 cos. (Hindustani Muhammadans); the 24th Bengal Infantry, of 4 cos. (Sikhs), 1 co. (Dogras), 1 co. (Punjabi Muhammadans), and 2 cos. (Pathans); the 1st Sikh Infantry, of 4 cos. (Sikhs), 1 co. (Dogras), 2 cos. (Pathans), and 1 co. (Punjabi Muhammadans); and the 7th Bengal Infantry, of 8 cos. (Rajputs). From this, it will be seen, that the 1st Bengal Lancers and the 7th Bengal Infantry are the only two regiments which are solid in race and religion; but that, where the regiments are, as regiments, mixed, the companies are solid, except in the case of the 1st Madras Infantry, which possesses four mixed companies.

Notice is given by Mr. A. M. Bisbee, Coast Inspector at Shanghai, that the character of Gutzlaff Light has been changed. The new illuminating apparatus is Dioptric, Lightning-flashing, of the Third Order, showing one white flash every 5 seconds. The new Light-house stands on the eastern end of the summit of the island, 144 feet N. 77½ deg. E., magnetic, from the site of the old Light; and the Light, which is elevated 283 feet above the level of the sea, should be visible in clear weather at a distance of 23.7 nautical miles. The tower is a steel structure, 25 feet high, with a total height from the base to the lantern vane of 46½ feet. The tower is painted white. Approximate position:—Latitude, 30 deg. 48 feet 37.2 inches N., Longitude, 122 deg. 10 feet 13.2 inches E.—Under the heading of "Swatow District" Mr. A. M. Bisbee further gives notice that Captain D. Mackenzie, of the steamer *Kweilin*, reports that his ship struck bottom at 4.56 a.m. on the 4th instant, with East Point, Namoa Island, bearing north true, and Three Chimney Bluff Point bearing S. 70 deg. W. true, the *Kweilin* drawing at the time, at the point of contact (the bilge keel), about 14 feet. In the above position British Admiralty Chart No. 1957, small corrections to January 1893, shows 14 fathoms of water.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CHINA.

(Daily Press 2nd July.)

A long and very interesting letter appears in our Shanghai contemporary, the *North-China Daily News*, on the 26th ult., from its Weihaiwei correspondent. Among the many points worthy of notice there is one which may well be described as of Imperial importance, and that is when the writer deals with the subject of the efficiency of our China Squadron. It would, he says, be interesting to know what estimate of the fighting value of the British fleet in Chinese waters at the present moment would be given by the Admiralty, were a question in this direction asked in Parliament. He goes on to state that the ships are denuded of officers and men. "Our ship," for example, he says, "has less than two hundred men on board out of a complement of over five hundred. Another, one of the larger of the smaller class of ships, has two officers and eleven seamen. Her 'stokehold' is correspondingly depleted, reducing her speed on 'emergency' from fourteen knots to about nine and a half or ten. Another at a pinch could perhaps work two of her guns. Another cannot use her larger boats—she has enough men left to get them on board again. Some, it is said, and it may be true, cannot move at all. They are effectually anchored within a dozen miles or so of Taku." As a contrast to the state of affairs obtaining in the British fleet, the Russian and Japanese boats are described as having their full complements. If this correspondent can substantiate his observations, the charge he makes is a grave one. But we are inclined to think that the case is overstated. It is no doubt true that many of the warships are obliged to remain at a distance from Taku, but is not the reason one of draught and not of crew? The Chinese rivers, of course, are not suitable for vessels of any considerable draught, and this point cannot be forgotten when the China Squadron is increased. But the boats which cannot be employed in affairs like the present one have their own duties—and it is not with a view of keeping China in order that they are here. With regard to the condition of efficiency in which they are maintained it would be unsafe to conclude hastily from the statements of one observer, however able he may be. His words must be weighed with the rest. If they are irrefutable, we cannot but hear more hereafter on the point which he discusses.

It must, however, be admitted that as matters have stood in the past and still stand until the arrival of reinforcements, the footing on which our naval and military establishments have been kept in China is such that to meet a great emergency steps have to be taken which unjustifiably weaken us at vital points in order to furnish us with a sufficient attacking force elsewhere. As we pointed out last week we have only been able to despatch 700 men to Taku by reducing our already inadequate garrison in Hongkong to 2,000 odd. Similarly Admiral SEYMOUR only got together his first handful of men by impairing the strength of the vessels he left under Admiral BRUCE. That we have done so well under the circumstances and held our own with the other foreign contingents is creditable to the officers and men; but, generally speaking, we had great luck on our side. The Viceroys of the Central provinces have maintained their character for firmness and commonsense, and have been able to hold down the unruly elements in their neighbourhood. LI HUNG-CHANG has done similar work here in the South. Had

different men been in charge of the Yangtze provinces and the Two Kwang, we could only have protected our interest in Central and South China by resigning the care of Northern affairs to other Powers—in fact, to Russia and Japan. Few would care to predict what then would have happened.

Shall we then see as the result of the present troubles the permanent retention of a more powerful British Squadron in Chinese waters, the stationing of an adequate garrison, adequately armed, at Hongkong, and the development of Weihaiwei, the value of which has been shown in the last fortnight? If we do not, we may definitely conclude that lessons are wasted on those to whose wisdom the protection of our interests is entrusted.

(Daily Press, 3rd July.)

In view of the important statement made in our telegram yesterday that the Boxers had made preparations for a general rising in September next, when they calculated on numbering some eight million adherents, including the regular troops, and that the Paoing-fu affair precipitated matters unduly, it is curious to read in a Washington despatch to the *Times* on the 1st of last month that it was hinted in diplomatic circles in Washington that the sudden increase observed in the activity of the Boxers was part of a well-conceived plan by one of the great European Powers to secure a permanent lodgment in Peking and seize a position, giving it full control of the Peiho river. The opinion was also held, it appears, that the plan proved abortive owing to the alertness of the other European Powers, but particularly to the readiness of Mr. CONGER and Rear-Admiral KEMPF, which at once gave the movement an international aspect and so tended to prevent the nation concerned from aggrandising itself at the expense of the interests of the other nations. It was thought that the excitement would soon abate and the rioters vanish away; so much so that when Mr. CONGER, the United States Minister in Peking, cabled that the arrival of the guards for the Legations had improved the situation, and that Peking was much quieter, though the Boxers were still active in the neighbourhood, his words carried conviction with them. The scene is indeed a different one now from what might be imagined from the pictures which the Ministers drew for their home governments. The persistent under-rating of the strength of the Boxers has brought its Nemesis. Of the conduct of the Ministers in persisting in remaining at Peking and throwing the responsibility for their safety on the Imperial Government, it may certainly be said that it is brave, but in the present circumstances it is foolhardy. If Prince TUAN is at the head of affairs now—probably actual Emperor, the telegram says—there is no power likely to restrain the Manchu-anti-foreign party. Even the Empress Dowager with her pretended Boxer-suppressing edicts has vanished, and a worse enemy to foreigners has taken her place. When she threw away the reins of power we do not know, and it is therefore impossible to say whether it was under her rule or that of Prince TUAN that the unfortunate Baron VON KETTELER, once, as we show elsewhere, a familiar figure in Canton, met with his death at the hands of the Chinese troops. It matters little, however, who is directly responsible for the murder; all the members of the palace clique are tarred with the same brush, and all must pay for the acts of their party. This they will soon commence to do. Already they have against them 14,000 troops, provided with an ample

supply of guns of an excellent quality. Our new Indian troops cannot reach Taku before the beginning of August. But the force before which Admiral SEYMOUR'S 2,000 could but give way very shortly be confronted with a far more numerous and a better equipped force, who, we may be sure, will press on with all the force possible. The situation at Peking is unfortunately so grave that we cannot feel certain, until the allies reach the city, that they will not be too late; for the story that the Ministers had consented to leave under Chinese escort seems to be disposed of by the new force of their declaration that they will remain at their post. This sacrifice to a principle, though heroic, may in the worst event deal a heavy blow to the Governments whose representatives they are. But we will hope that their courage will impress even the anti-foreign fanatics who follow Prince TUAN'S lead.

THE SITUATION IN PEKING.

(Daily Press, 5th July.)

We are apparently now faced with a state of affairs in North China which time alone can change. The allied forces in Tientsin are in the melancholy position of knowing that their inability to move may cost the lives of the Ministers of the Powers now besieged and in desperate straits in the British Legation, one of the three European buildings which alone seem to be left standing in Peking. Within the enclosure of the Legation there are, as far as we know, some four hundred men collected, including the Ministers and their staffs, and the refugees as remained in Peking, and the international troops. As far as arms are concerned the garrison are well armed, but we have no knowledge of what stores of provisions they have. A certain reserve of the Legations are wont to have, and the troops that went up from Tientsin on the 31st of May took a fresh stock with them; but it hardly seems likely that there is a sufficient to provide against a siege. It is unfortunately improbable even that there could be a siege of any duration, owing to the overwhelming numbers of the besiegers, who cannot but overcome the most heroic resistance if it comes to a matter of direct assault. The utmost we can hope for is that there may be no attempt to carry the building by assault until sufficient reinforcements arrive at Tientsin from Manila, Japan, and Russia—we can hardly add from here—to enable a strong body to force its way through. Such hope, however, is shadowy, if Prince TUAN'S influence is all that is likely to prevent an immediate attack on the handful of foreigners almost in his grasp. The usurper's well-known character is not such as to encourage any ideas that he will interfere to preserve the hated aliens. Elated by their success over Admiral SEYMOUR'S temporary command the ex-Imperial troops cannot fail to think themselves the matchless for nations which the Manchu party has encouraged them to believe. The moral effect of the repulse of the Peking relief force must have been absolutely disastrous.

The question arises, Did the Ministers do right in insisting on remaining at Peking while it was yet possible for them to leave in safety—say, at the beginning of June, when the contingent of three hundred and thirty mixed troops had arrived by the then intact Tientsin-Peking line to guard the Legations? It is an undoubted fact that they could then or in the course of the next few days have left Peking and retired to Tientsin, intimating to the Imperial Government that they were obliged to take this extreme measure owing to the improper way in which the "Boxers" were being dealt with, and the

consequent danger to the lives of all foreign residents in Peking. They could so have done, we say, but we admit that the step would have been unconventional and would indicate an anticipation of the future and almost a touch of genius, which we have no right to look for in Ministers. The advantage of the presence of the Ministers in a place where they could be in touch with their naval forces is indubitable. The Ministers are men experienced in Chinese affairs; the Admirals for the most part are not. Had the former been in a spot where they could keep up a communication with their home Governments, we should not have seen all this friction and waste of time which has been occasioned by the division of authority, when the Admirals have been obliged to telegraph to the home Authorities for instructions in matters of which the latter have next to no knowledge, cut off from those whose business it is to know. It must be granted that no ordinary man could be expected to foresee accurately the rapidity with which the danger developed in Peking, and when once the crucial moment for escape had passed any attempt to retreat from Peking would merely have brought on a terrible disaster. After the first week in June the Ministers rightly saw that it was their duty to remain, if they did not wish to precipitate a general outbreak at once. Next week the line between Peking and Tientsin was wrecked, and all thought of escape, had such been entertained, would have been necessarily abandoned.

There remains the matter of the ultimatum which led to the capture of the Taku Forts on the 17th ult. It must be supposed that the naval commanders, like the Ministers before them, could not believe in the determination and solidarity of the forces against them. It seems otherwise hard to justify an order capable of being misinterpreted as a declaration of war, at a time when the diplomatic representatives of the Powers concerned were shut up in the enemy's capital, with a guard quite inadequate in the worst event, and a force of only two thousand men were proceeding on a perilous errand at a distance from their base. The policy which was pursued is difficult to explain. Later perhaps we may be able to disentangle the actual story from amid the mass of inconsistencies and false reports. Until then we can but wait and wonder.

TARIFF REVISION.

(Daily Press, 4th July.)

Sometime ago we referred to some premature but characteristic cacklings to which we had been treated by certain people who had allowed their zeal to outrun their discretion on the subject of Tariff Revision. We were told by these busybodies in so many words that the question had been settled by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, and that the British Government had given its consent to the alterations, which included an extensive addition to present rates. The wish, as we stated at the time, was father to the thought, and in our recent advices from home we find a considerable amount of light thrown on the subject. An attempt was indeed made to "rush" the position, and as it is characteristic of Chinese governmental methods, it may be worth while, even in the present crisis to refer to it again, as the attempt is pretty certain to be again made, and probably paraded in the same quarters as a "concession" to Great Britain. According then to the *Times* correspondent in Peking, who had evidently been taken momentarily behind the scenes, the commissioners appointed by the Chinese Government to formulate proposals for the amend-

ment of the Tariff had drafted a notable scheme, which, except that it reckoned without its host, was decidedly ingenious, for the solution of this eminently simple affair. We say "simple" advisedly, for all interests capable of forming an opinion, or entitled to be heard in the settlement, have, as we pointed out, practically agreed on the details of the revision. The question has long ceased to be what China will give, but what will, in her own as well as foreign interests, be required of her. Knowing these facts, which have been strengthened rather than the contrary by recent doings in Peking, it is instructive to see what the Empress's Government, apparently with the assistance of the Inspectorate-General, was laying out its for next concession. The proposal was carefully worded so as to appear to the eyes of the half-informed as a graceful yielding to insular prejudices; China would, it explained, seek no increase of the Export duties on her own products shipped; she would, moreover, again promise—for the hundredth time, we may remind her—that *lekin*, and further charges on Imports would be abolished. In return for this benevolent action on her part, we were, however, to agree to the unconditional increase of Import duties to a tariff of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, or, say, an immediate increase of some 500 per cent. That is to say that in return for an indefinite promise, of whose negative value we have proof every day, we were to make an absolute surrender of the results of our diplomacy for the last sixty years; and ourselves aid China in the good work of expelling the foreigner from the Celestial shores. The scheme, as we have suggested, bears too evident traces of the work of the Inspectorate-General not to raise our suspicions as to the source whence have proceeded many of the other inspirations which have enabled Peking little by little to render nugatory every engagement entered into. We do not willingly find ourselves thus called on to assume what at first sight will doubtless be looked upon by many as an attack on Sir ROBERT HART, and the great institution of which he is the honoured chief, and which has from time to time conferred enormous benefits, not only on China but on civilisation at large. Recent events have, however, thrown such a lurid light on the methods being pursued, that in the interests of the service itself we must protest against its latest attitude. We are only too well aware that for much of the present difficulty not Sir ROBERT HART himself has been the main offender, but Lord SALISBURY. The Inspector-General has been forced into a wrong position, and the service has been gradually and slowly, but surely, compelled to appear as a political adjunct of the Chinese Government. We have lately had frequent occasion to complain of the manner in which the British Minister himself has been set aside at the suggestion of the Inspectorate or the Chinese Representative at Portland Place; and our remarks, had they not been founded on stern facts, might well have seemed prophetic. How correct was our forecast the events of the last three weeks are sufficient to show. When the Inspectorate-General was first instituted it was founded for no political purpose, but solely to overcome the evils incident to every Chinese official department when money had to pass through its hands. The greater part of the Yangtze provinces were in the hands of the Taiping rebels; the imperial officers were notoriously dealing with them in arms and supplies of all sorts, and the Custom House was being worked not in the interests of the Government, but in that of the officials in charge, and to the detriment of honest and legit-

imate trade. The abuses became so grave that the three Powers principally interested appointed each an Inspector to look after the collection. Beyond the mere control over the collection the department exercised no political duties, which remained as before in the hands of the officials. This wholesome tradition lasted for many years, but circumstances by degrees compelled the Inspectorate to assume closer connection with the Chinese Government. In the abstract this was natural and need have led to no misunderstanding. Unfortunately the British Government could never come to comprehend the altered position, while at the same time it withdrew the ægis of protection it had at first thrown over the office. The natural consequence was that the Inspectorate came in the hands of crafty politicians to be an advanced post against British encouragement. This position probably culminated in the period when Sir NICHOLAS O'CONNOR was Minister in Peking, and it is no secret to the initiated, really procured that gentleman's removal from that post. Had Lord SALISBURY taken to heart the lesson he would have avoided a like position of affairs growing up under his eyes; unfortunately as we know he did not, but abuses, under the false sources of information mainly patronised by the British Prime Minister, were permitted to grow up and prosper. The present state of affairs at the Capital of Chihli, for it can hardly be called the Capital of China, is the result. Meanwhile, as was the case with his immediate predecessor, Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD finds himself openly discredited. The fault is none of his seeking, and Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD under the most trying circumstances has done his utmost to uphold the credit of his Government. We urge not a word against the present Minister at Peking, when we call on the Government to repair as far as it can the wrong done, by removing Sir CLAUDE to a sphere where he can find himself able to hold up his head as an honourable man, and an ornament to a distinguished service.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AS APPLICABLE TO CHINA.

(Daily Press, 6th July.)

Wireless telegraphy, which, judging from the slow progress it has been making, finds comparatively few applications in times of peace, has doubtless its most useful part to play in war. Already in the mimic warfare of the Naval Evolutions it has been found of the greatest service in enabling a distant squadron to announce to an isolated fleet its whereabouts, and this, in spite of the fact that we have no practical means of controlling its path, will probably be found its most useful service. How useful it could be made we have an example in China, at the moment. Had Admiral SEYMOUR's plucky detachment, when unseconded it went out into the darkness to brave the whole Chinese army, been provided with such a signalling apparatus, the whole of the Empire would not have watched so long in vain for the slightest indication of the fate of his gallant men. Again had Tientsin been but provided with an installation it would have been practical effectually to communicate with the relief party, and to arrange a concerted method of attack. It is quite true that the system is subject to all the disabilities of every system of visible telegraphy, and that a message sent to a relieving force will be equally visible to the enemy. In this, however, it is well to remember, it labours under the same disadvantages as the heliograph. There are of course others peculiar to itself.

and in spite of Mr. MARCONI's repeated assurances that he is able to reflect to a point the Hertzian rays proceeding from his apparatus, the fact still remains that those rays in reality affect the surrounding medium, and may be picked up by any instrument situated in the field of activity. Still, where the object is to gain definite information as to the locality of a relieving force, the system, though not perfect, may be made to afford indications of the highest importance. During the Boer war it was the custom of that enterprising nation to interfere deliberately with the signals being sent by the British forces, by projecting false signals. More easily than the heliograph the wireless apparatus lends itself to such methods, and a message from the Marconi instrument must thus always labour under the suspicion of falsity. On the other hand the Hertzian message possesses the invaluable property that it cannot be interfered with on its road by weather or interruption of any sort, and this gives a peculiar advantage where an order has to be communicated to several points at once. Take, for example, our own case with the Kowloon Extension; a signal given from the Headquarters staff would be at once read on all the corresponding instruments on the mainland; and this might mean the salvation of the whole in case of a secret attack on any isolated part. As by the elevation of the signalling wire the distance over which it is possible to flash a message may be almost indefinitely increased, there would be a means of communicating messages, say from Taku to the Tengkow Light in one stretch, whence to Chefoo or Weihaiwei would be but a short distance. In fact in the case of a coast like that of China, where overland telegraphy is practically extinguished, the wireless Marconi system would find its proper place. As a commercial venture the system will probably never be of sufficient importance to justify its installation, as the difficulty of inaugurating a direct line is seldom insurmountable. The only exceptions likely to occur are those of isolated stations, as lightships where the laying of a cable presents any special difficulty; and such of course is the position in China just now. We might, of course, and probably will, should the situation last long enough, lay a special cable to Weihaiwei, or even to Taku, but this is a work requiring months to execute. On the other hand, to inaugurate a wireless line, where there exists a flagstaff high enough for the purpose, is only the work of a few minutes; may we hope that her Majesty's fleet is duly provided with instruments and that we may soon see some such means of communication availed of? In an important naval station like Hongkong the cost of such an installation would soon repay itself. Even from a commercial point of view the installation would be of considerable advantage; mail steamers, for instance, would be telegraphed independent of weather; vessels could ascertain their exact position in case of fog; and prompt assistance could be sent to ships in distress. These are undoubted advantages to be gained for the Colony; and when in addition to these we point out the utility to the Empire we trust that no time may be lost in utilising the invention.

The German paddle steamer *Sui Hsiang*, Capt. H. Papl, arrived at Singapore from Bremen early on the 28th ult. on her way to Shanghai, whither she was to proceed on the 30th. The *Sui Hsiang*, for which the local consignees are Messrs. Gilfillan Wood and Co., is a newly built vessel of 354 tons, this being her maiden voyage to the Far East.

THE PROPOSED NEW RIFLE CORPS.

[Contributed.]

There can be no room for doubt about the extreme value of irregular forces in warfare. During the American and Spanish conflict this was time and again proved in the clearest and most conclusive manner. The daring deeds of Colonel Roosevelt and his famous rough-riders, in the hard fighting that came about before Santiago in Cuba, are still freshly remembered. During the present imbroglio in South Africa, the inestimable worth of volunteers has, from the outset, been one of the most noticeable things in the campaign. At Paardeburg, Colonial irregulars were in the very forefront of the fighting. At a later phase, Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed his congratulations and the mother-country's admiration and thanks to Canada, for the useful work accomplished by the Dominion irregular forces in the ticklish operation that ended in the relief of Colonel—now Staff Lieutenant-General—Baden-Powell and his small handful of heroes, themselves, by the way, almost wholly made up of volunteers, with the merest stiffening of regulars. We all recall, too, with pleasurable feelings of pride, the splendid defence effected by Colonel Dalgetty and his tiny composite locally enlisted force at Wepener against greatly superior numbers. Look again how largely General Brabant and his Cape contingent loom in the events that have occurred since the crossing of the Orange river! Bearing this in mind many may well express unstinted sympathy with the movement that has been begun to embody additional auxiliary irregulars in our midst. The six co-signatories of the important letter, in the *Daily Press* of the 23rd inst. are to be commended for their timely patriotic initiative. It is satisfactory to learn that the military authorities look with favour on the scheme, and that they are willing to afford all reasonable facilities. In the light of the object lessons recently given us on the utility of locally levied irregulars, nothing less could have been expected of them. As the Chairman of the meeting in support of the movement said, the scheme is by no means alarmist; it is not a matter of urgency. It is simply one of calm preparation to meet foreshadowed emergencies. This is pre-eminently a deliberate and workmanlike manner of looking facts in the face, and one which will appeal to the business instincts of every sober-minded person. Now is the time to gird on our armour, and to make good the defects in our defences; not when the place shall be menaced, and the enemy at our gates. The alarm raised by Mr. Hursthouse might, in certain measure, be justified; but when fuller explanations were forthcoming, it proved to be groundless. The scheme is in no wise inimical to the existing Corps, rather is it supplementary to it; it merely nets those who, for many obvious reasons, will never be drawn into the latter's meshes: in fact, the new body proposes to utilise materials not indeed which the senior body would reject, but which it is unlikely it would ever be offered. Herein lies its chiefest claim for active support and sympathy. Cambridge men will understand us when it is said that the newly-forming Corps will be no more hostile to the established Corps than a combination of "Ancient Mariners" on the Cam would be to any of the College eights. There must be several hundred men, at the least, who for many reasons are unable to join any of the four units of the present Corps under the highly efficient command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Carrington and Major Arthur Chapman; and yet would be but too glad to attach themselves to some such organisation as is lightly sketched out in the weighty letter already alluded to. The Volunteer Corps of which our esteemed Chief Justice is Commandant, as evidenced by his recently published report, has nearly doubled its strength during the past twelve months. There can be no question but that this exceedingly gratifying result is mainly attributable to the healthy stimulus of the actual service the men saw when called upon, with the Garrison, to aid in the suppression of the disturbances on the Kowloon peninsula in April of last year, as well as to the prominent share allotted to them in the occupation of the walled city of Kowloon a month later. It is the acutely critical state

of affairs in North China which has indubitably given an impetus to the present significant movement. Refugees, like frightened birds before the lowering storm, are already flocking to our island from all sides; each day that passes adds to the tale; and it would be the grossest unwisdom to attempt to shut our eyes to the pregnant meaning of such an incident. It is well to be prepared against possibilities; and, where the Chinese are concerned, it is still the unexpected that happens. It is quite true that we in Hongkong are not in that naked condition of defencelessness that Tientsin and the many isolated communities scattered about the coast and dotting the banks of the river Yangtze are. Events, however, might render it needful, if not absolutely imperative, for the greater part of our European land forces to be temporarily withdrawn, in which case, volunteers of all kinds would be of incalculable value in any formulated plan of local defence. Moreover, we candidly avow that we are not quite so cheerily optimistic as is H.E. Li Hung-chang, the venerable Viceroy of the Liang-Kwang. In our opinion, and this opinion we believe is fairly general, it is his potent presence that alone has kept in check the rebellion which for months gone has been smouldering, and which should he be called away by the iniquitous Dowager Empress, would inevitably kindle into fierce flame. Bad as we now are, we should then, in the words of the Elizabethan saw, be landed from the smoke into the smother. The departure of His Excellency for Peking, at this juncture, would be calamitously fraught with the most imminent peril to us in Hongkong. Our Colony borders the province of Kwangtung, notably one of the most turbulent of the whole eighteen. It accordingly behoves us to be adequately provided against all conceivable eventualities. Next to the strengthening of the Garrison in the regular way, the formation of further volunteer units is a most hopeful sign of the times, and one that should be welcomed with every mark of approval and encouragement. We do not exactly see why it is stipulated that members must be over thirty-two years of age; and can only surmise that all up to that age ought to belong to one or other of the various branches of the existing Volunteer Corps. The practical abolition of ordinary barrack-square drill, and of show parades, is a praiseworthy feature. Recent history has, or should have, taught us, that there is too much of this harrying and useless kind of work in the army; and Laird Clowes, in the series of brilliant articles that have just appeared from week to week in the columns of the *Daily Press*, makes a similar complaint with respect to the navy. In matter of dress, too, we notice that uniform is to be restricted to a minimum—sufficient in fact to ensure to members the right of war. No one, naturally, would care to be treated to the short shrift meted out by the Germans to *francs-tireurs*. Here, again, we distinctly trace the formative influence of recent events. The Boers have simplified the matter of uniform down to the veriest essentials. Why is a special uniform indeed necessary? A badge ought to be enough. The majority of the republican soldiers, when taken have been in private dress, with no particular distinction whatever. Cronje himself, according to the photographs of him as he fell into our hands on Majuba day, was in civilian attire. An efficient internal organisation, together with authoritative recognition by the local Government and military powers are now all that is needed, minor details could soon be settled. The cartridge-bandolier and the rifle would surely serve to distinguish combatant from non-combatant. When all is said and done, the promoters do not ask for much—service rifle, the use of a range, and military status. They could not very well ask for less. They might have demanded much more, and still have been deemed moderate.

The Chinese Minister to the United States, Wu Ting Fang, in an address which he delivered at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, strongly advised women physicians to go to China, where he assured them that anyone who had sufficient skill and knowledge in the art of healing was freely allowed to practise, irrespective of nationality, sex, or creed.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 29th June, 9.47 p.m.

The position at Chungking is very critical. The *Pioneer* is detained for one month. The Consul has taken entire charge.

At Tientsin, one gun is still bombarding the town from the arsenal, but the shells do not explode.

SHANGHAI, 29th June, 9.57 p.m.

The U. S. battleship *Oregon* has been stranded during a fog off Noki Island.

SHANGHAI, 1st July, 5.33 p.m.

The telegraph lines to Chefoo are working badly and there is much delay. The British naval brigade under Commander C. G. F. M. Cradock, of H.M.S. *Alacrity*, with the Welsh Fusiliers, 600 altogether, 150 Americans under Major Waller, and 30 Italians entered Tientsin first, the Russians and Germans following.

Admiral Seymour reached a point within 25 miles from Peking and then retired from an enormous force of Chinese troops. He had 37 British killed and 92 wounded. Captain Beyts of the *Centurion* was killed. Captain Jellicoe received dangerous wounds and Lieutenant Powell of the *Aurora* a severe chest-wound.

Tientsin is safe and has suffered little damage. The *Terrible's* twelve-pounder on her original carriage promptly silenced the remaining gun at the Arsenal. The Chinese then retired. Admiral Seymour captured fifty Maxims, some Krupps, and immense stores of ammunition.

The Tientsin-Peking railway is quite destroyed, while the Taku-Tientsin line has been destroyed for nine miles. The sleepers have been carried away for fuel.

The allies have burnt the villages between Taku and Tientsin to destroy the cover. The banks of the Peiho River from Tientsin to Taku are lined with dead Chinese. The *Barfleur* has suffered the heaviest casualties among British ships. A Chinese fort on the Peiho, twelve miles from Taku, has been exploded by the *Fame*, Commander Keyes.

The Chinese Regiment under Col. Bower is very keen and is doing good work. Experts agree that Indian cavalry, not infantry, is mostly required.

The Japanese troops are remaining at Taku, not going to the front. The Russian movements are uncertain.

Newchwang is nervous. The *Aurora* is there. Chefoo is also in a state of anxiety. At Shanghai all is quiet. The *Pique* has arrived at Woosung and is going to Hankow.

It is believed that the Foreign Ministers, refused to leave Peking. Probably Prince Tuan is now the actual Emperor.

The Boxers claim eight million adherents, including the Chinese armies, by the end of September, when it was intended that the rising should take place. But the Paotingfu affair precipitated matters. Happily the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Liu Kungyi remain staunch.

News has arrived from Peking to-day that the German Minister was murdered on the 13th ult. by Chinese troops. Only three Legations had not been burnt on the 23rd. The situation is most precarious.

SHANGHAI, 2nd July 8.20 p.m.

The Moukden Mission and Hospital have been burnt down. The native pastor and Christians have been killed.

SHANGHAI, 3rd July, 9 p.m.

At Peking on Sunday, the 1st instant, all the foreigners were besieged in the British Legation. Their situation was desperate.

There is no adequate force at Tientsin to send for the relief of Peking.

SHANGHAI, 4th July, 10.12 p.m.

A Chinese report, which is generally believed here, states that all foreigners in Peking have been murdered, the Emperor Kwang Hsu poisoned, the Empress Dowager's rule abolished, and General Nish with 30,000 troops is marching on Tientsin.

It is reported that Japan's intended expedition has been stopped by international jealousies.

SHANGHAI, 5th July, 10.6 p.m.

The women and children are leaving Tientsin.

News has been received via Chefoo, dated Peking 24th ult., to the effect that all foreigners were collected in three Legations, the English, French, and Japanese. They had only two days' provisions.

The *Oregon* is still badly ashore.

Chev. Z. Volpicelli, the Italian Consul, courteously informed us that on the 4th inst. that he had received a wire from the Chief Italian Naval Officer at Taku, which confirmed the murder of the German Minister. All the Legations have been destroyed excepting three, the British, French and German. These three legations are scattered apart, and no exact reason can be assigned, in the absence of information, as to why these particular three have been left standing. The British legation is a strong building, with high strong walls, facing the road and canal and the German legation is further on down the same street. The Italian Consul is also informed that the gravest fears exist at Taku concerning the Ministers, and that the whole of the foreigners had taken refuge in the British Legation.

Official news is also said to have been received from Peking stating that the late German Minister was murdered in the street whilst on the way to visit the Tsungli Yamen. His German interpreter was also wounded, but escaped with his life.

By the courtesy of the Japanese Consul we are able to publish the following telegram received by him on the evening of the 5th inst. from the Japanese Government:—

The Tsungli Yamen ordered the foreign Ministers on the 19th June to leave Peking within 24 hours. Owing to the danger of the journey they refused to comply. Meanwhile the situation at Peking is growing more and more serious, and the German Minister is reported to have been murdered by Chinese troops on his way to the Tsungli Yamen. According to the report brought from Peking to Tientsin on the 29th June by special messenger, all the Legations except the British, German, and French were destroyed, and the foreigners are besieged in the British Legation under heavy rifle fire.

The subordinate staff of the Penang Government Service, who recently memorialized the Acting Governor for a further grant of 10 per cent. allowance on their salaries, consequent on the enhanced prices of commodities, have received what they consider a provisional reply dealing with only one of the points advanced in the memorial, namely, rice. After contrasting its price in 1889 with its price in subsequent years, the letter concludes with a suggestion that the prevalent high price is probably due to the famine in India, and that, when the letter has been tidied over, rice will fall to its normal price. It is rumoured that a meeting will soon be convened to discuss the matter.

SUPREME COURT.

29th June.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOUR, T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE SHELL CASE—JUDGMENT FOR THE DEFENDANT.

Judgment was given in the Shell Case. The Chief Justice said—By their petition the plaintiffs alleged that by an agreement dated the 20th December, 1899, the Crown agreed to lease to them a piece of ground covered by the sea and registered in the Land Office of the Colony as Lantau Marine Lot No. 2 for a term of five years from the 7th October, 1899 at the annual rent of \$300, and that one of the conditions of the agreement was that the plaintiffs should use the said premises for the purpose only of searching for and obtaining coral or shells from the bed of the sea. They further alleged that on the 12th January, 1900, the defendant trespassed upon the said premises and took therefrom coral and shells, the property of the plaintiffs, and converted them to his own use. And they claimed damages of \$100 for the trespass and conversion.

By his answer the defendant set up several defences, the principal of which, and the one most relied on at the hearing, was that, from a time exceeding the limits of living memory, Chinese fishermen had, without hindrance and in exercise of their lawful rights, taken by dredging the natural products of the sea, as well from the leased premises as from the adjacent and surrounding waters and the land beneath such waters; that the said premises are situate within the district leased to Her Majesty the Queen by His Majesty the Emperor of China by and subject to the conditions contained in the Convention dated the 9th June, 1898; that it is a term of the Convention that there shall be no expropriation of the inhabitants of the leased district; and that the defendant was an inhabitant of the said district and had a right to take the natural products of the sea, including coral and shells, from the said premises.

At the hearing the facts of the case were for the most part not in dispute. The plaintiffs seem to have been engaged in the business of procuring dead shells, dredged up from the waters of the sea, for the purpose of lime-burning for some time before they obtained the agreement for a lease which is referred to in their petition. This agreement—which, by the way, purports to be executed by the plaintiffs, but is not so executed—was intended to place them in possession, for the purposes already mentioned, of a submarine area, measuring nearly three miles in length by about a mile and a half in breadth—inclusive, however, of a considerable island—close to the little island of Chau Kung, on the eastern side of the large island of Lantau. It is admitted that this area is within the limits of the territorial waters of the leased district. From this area the plaintiffs took marine shells for use in their business, by means of junks and boats engaged by them for the purpose. They also gave permission to the owners of other junks and boats to take shells from the leased premises, on condition of their being paid one candareem per picul for all shells so taken. Finding their alleged exclusive rights of dredging invaded by others without permission obtained from them, the plaintiffs in January last made complaint to the Police authorities, with the result that on the 12th January Sergeant Kerr, of the Water Police, found five junks dredging for shells within the limits of the area under lease. Of one of these junks the defendant was the owner and master. After ascertaining that the junks were dredging without the permission of the plaintiffs, Sergeant Kerr took the junks with the persons on board of them to the Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui. There it was found that the junks had on board greater or less quantities of dead marine shells, the defendant stating that his junk carried 14 piculs. Mr. Slade admitted that these shells had been dredged up by the defendant from the leased premises to be used in the burning of lime. The persons in charge

of the junks were charged with stealing the shells, but in the result they were discharged at the Police Court, and their junks and the shells in question were subsequently delivered up to them. Civil proceedings were then instituted against them by the plaintiffs, and it was arranged between the parties that the alleged exclusive right of the plaintiffs should be tested in the present suit.

At the hearing, evidence was given by Mr. Bruce Shepherd, the Land Officer, that claims had been made at the Land Office in respect of similar leases to the one now in question, alleged to have been granted by the Chinese authorities. It was said that these claims had been substantiated by documentary evidence—grants by the Chinese Government—which had been lodged in the Land Office. Mr. Shepherd said that these claims had been noted, but there had been no recognition of them beyond the receipt of rent in respect of them. The documents spoken of were not produced, and no further evidence was forthcoming as to their authenticity, their terms, or their effect. In these circumstances I am unable to think that there is any satisfactory evidence before the Court to show that, prior to the cession of the leased district, the Chinese Government claimed and exercised the right of granting within the district leases of a similar character to that the validity of which is now challenged in this suit.

On the other hand, in the course of the hearing the parties agreed upon and filed the following admission of fact:—"It is admitted that Chinese fishermen have been in the habit of dredging for shells and coral, for the purposes of lime-burning, from Lantau Marine Lot No. 2 openly and believing themselves entitled as of right so to do, without interference by any one, from the limits of living memory until the granting of the lease of the above Lot."

I am satisfied by the evidence before the Court that the defendant is a Chinese fisherman and also that he was, at the time of the alleged trespass, an inhabitant of the leased district. Further, I find that, as such fisherman and inhabitant, he was, at the time of the execution of the agreement, in the enjoyment without hindrance, in common with other Chinese fishermen, of what he and they believed to be a right to win from the leased premises coral and shells and to appropriate them to his own use as material for lime-burning.

The parties, then, standing in this relation to one another so far as the facts are concerned, it remains to determine what are their legal relations as arising out of these facts.

By the Order of the Queen-in-Council of the 20th October, 1898, it was declared that the territories within the limits and for the term described in the Convention should be part and parcel of the Colony. Apart then from the question raised by the defence of the pre-existent right to dredge for and remove marine shells from the leased premises, it may be taken—although, as will be seen hereafter, the matter is not free from doubt—that it was competent for the Crown to let the submarine area in question to the plaintiffs, subject, however, to the rights of free navigation and fishing by the public in the waters covering that area. These public rights, it may be mentioned, are expressly reserved by the agreement. By virtue of the agreement the plaintiffs are *prima facie* in lawful and exclusive possession of the leased area, subject to the reserved public rights, for the purpose of searching for and obtaining coral and shells from it. The defendant sets up an alleged right by custom to take coral and shells from this very area, in derogation of the exclusive right which the agreement purports to confer on the plaintiffs. It is plain that the onus lies on him to establish this defence, and that, in default of his so doing, he must be regarded as a trespasser. The question then is, do the facts as proved in evidence have the effect in point of law of establishing this defence?

I am unable to see how this question can be determined in accordance with the strict rules of English law. For the leased district became subject to English law by virtue only of a Proclamation of the Governor made under the above-mentioned Order-in-Council, while the alleged right in the defendant and his fellows was in existence at the date of the Order-in-Council and for a long antecedent

period. If the rules of English law are applied in their strictness, it would seem that the alleged right of Chinese fishermen or of the inhabitants of the leased district—involving, as it does, a claim of a right to remove what is practically part of the soil of the leased premises—cannot be supported, for it was laid down in *Gateward's Case*, 6 Co. Rep. 59 b, that "there cannot be a custom for inhabitants as such, to have profit apprender in the soil of another." The authority of this case was recognized in *Goodman v. Mayor of Saltash*, 7 App. Cas. 633. There the facts as stated in a special case were that a prescriptive right to a several oyster fishery in a navigable tidal river was proved to have been exercised from time immemorial by a borough corporation and its lessees; without any qualification except that the free inhabitants of ancient tenements in the borough had from time immemorial, and claiming as of right, exercised the privilege of dredging for oysters in the *locus in quo* from the 2nd of February to Easter Eve in each year, and of catching and carrying away the same without stint for sale and otherwise. This usage of the inhabitants tended to the destruction of the fishery, and if continued would destroy it. Lord Selborne L.C., said, at p. 641:—"If it were necessary that the class to which the appellants belong [namely, the free inhabitants of ancient tenements in the borough] should make out a right to a profit à prendre *in alieno solo*, I should be of opinion that they could not do so. *Gateward's Case* is a conclusive authority against such a claim by such a class, unless made through a corporation under its corporate title." And Lord Cairns said, at p. 648:—"I think it also clear that a fluctuating and uncertain body cannot claim a profit à prendre *in alieno solo*."

But I can discover no good reason for saying that this technical rule should be held applicable in the present case, with the result of defeating the alleged right of Chinese fishermen and of the inhabitants of the leased district. For that alleged right is founded upon a custom which has had its origin and has grown up under Chinese law, and its absolute validity or otherwise can properly be determined only by reference to the rules of that law. What those rules are on this subject we do not know, and we cannot therefore apply them to test the alleged right. No evidence with respect to them has been given on the one side or on the other.

But we find the alleged right actively claimed and exercised at the present day, and with a history of peaceful enjoyment reaching as far back as living memory extends. And while I lay out of view the technical rule to which reference has just been made, and which I cannot believe to be applicable to the circumstances of the present case, I think there are certain general principles of English law which may usefully and justly be employed in estimating the validity of this claim of right. It is well known that our law, in common no doubt with other systems of jurisprudence, has always regarded with favour the long-continued, and unquestioned possession or user of property or proprietary rights. I will refer to a few cases in illustration of this position, where the circumstances bore more or less resemblance to the circumstances of the present case.

Before the Prescription Act, 1832, there was a recognized custom of making claim to easements, by which the right was based upon a grant made and lost in modern times, in all cases where the enjoyment had lasted without interruption for twenty years. Although such evidence of title was in theory only presumption, yet in practice it was conclusive. And even since the Act, if a party, instead of depending upon the statute-law, relies (as he may do) upon common-law presumption, or a lost grant, enjoyment for a less period than the statutory number of years, when coupled with other circumstances, will warrant a jury in finding a verdict in his favour: Taylor on Evidence, s. 126.

In *Hanmer v. Chance*, 4 De G., J., and S. 626, which was decided in 1865, the question was as to a custom for copyhold tenants of a manor to dig and remove sand, etc., from their tenements. Lord Westbury L.C., said, at p. 635:—"The law has laid down no rule as the extent of evidence which is required to establish a custom or from

which the presumption or inference of the fact of a custom may be rightly drawn. It is the province of a jury to draw these conclusions of fact, but in several reported cases the Courts have refused to disturb the verdicts of juries as to a custom in a manor, even when founded on very slender evidence. . . . The acts of the copyholders have been open and notorious, and it is hardly to be supposed, if there was no custom, that they would have remained unchallenged by the lord, inasmuch as if unwarranted they would have formed a cause of forfeiture by the copyholders of their tenements, and the lord therefore has always had the strongest interest to take advantage of the acts done." And the Lord Chancellor reversed the decree of Page Wood, V.C., holding that "a jury would be not only warranted but bound upon the evidence of the defendants to find in favour of the custom."

In *Doe dem. Devine v. Wilson*, 10 Moore P.C.C. 502, objection was taken to a Crown grant for uncertainty, and it was held by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that, in such a case, after long modern possession, a supplementary and confirmatory grant might be presumed. This decision was followed in *Des Barres v. Shy*, 29 L. T. (N. S.) 592, which was also decided by the Judicial Committee.

In *Attorney General for British Honduras v. Bristowe*, 6 App. Cas. 143, which was a case of an information for intrusion relating to land in British Honduras, the opinion of the Judicial Committee was thus expressed by Sir Montague Smith:—"Assuming then the conclusion of fact to be established, as their Lordships think it is, that, in the interval which elapsed between the retirement of the Spaniards in 1798 and the assumption of territorial sovereignty by the British Crown, full possession of the land had been taken by the devisees [the predecessors in title of the defendants], and that such possession had been continued by them and their assignees down to the date of the filing of the information, it becomes unnecessary to determine the question whether the devisees, at the time when the British Crown had annexed the territory, had acquired a title to the land by first occupancy or otherwise, which the Crown was bound to recognize. Their Lordships are by no means prepared to say that such a title has not been shown, but they think it unnecessary so to decide, because the facts, as proved and found, establish adverse possession against the Crown for a period exceeding sixty years; namely, a possession commencing before 1817, in or before which period the Crown had certainly assumed territorial sovereignty in Honduras, and continued without disturbance or effectual claim by the Crown down to the period of the filing of the information."

In *Johnson v. Barnes*, L. R. 7, C. P. 592, which was a case relating to a right of pasturage in the borough of Colchester, Willes, J., at p. 604, quoted the ancient dictum that "antiquity of time justifies all titles and supposeth the best beginning the law can give them," and continued:—"So that, if evidence be given after long enjoyment of property to the exclusion of others, of such a character as to establish that it was dealt with as of right as a distinct and separate property, in a manner referable to a possible legal origin, it is presumed that the enjoyment in the manner long used was in pursuance of such an origin, which, in the absence of proof that it was modern, is deemed to have taken place beyond legal memory." And in the same case, on appeal in the Exchequer Chamber, L. R. 8 C. P. 527, Kelly, C.B., said, at p. 530:—"Then we come to what has been made one of the most important questions in the case, that is to say, supposing that the right actually exercised has always been in fact a right of exclusive pasturage, and has always been treated and dealt with as such, is the presumption which would naturally arise from the facts destroyed by the effect of a long and numerous series of documents in which the right is spoken of in expressions indicating a right in the nature of a right of common? I do not think we should be justified in giving this effect to the documents, if the result would be to set aside a right which has been so long exercised in fact, which has been made the subject of so many transactions involving large sums of money, and which has never been made the subject of complaint or remonstrance on the part of those adversely to whom it was exercised. . . . It appears to

me, therefore, on consideration of the whole of the facts and documents in this case, that we are bound, in accordance with one of the best established principles of law, to presume a legal origin, if one were possible, in favour of a long and uninterrupted actual enjoyment of a right, and that our judgment in this case should be for the defendant."

Mr. Slade for the defendant relied much on a similar dictum of Lord Selborne, L.C., in *Goodman v. Mayor of Saltash* supra. In that case in the course of his judgment Lord Selborne said, at p. 639 of the report:—"The special case, no doubt, does not find that such fishery was 'of right' (which would have been to prejudge the question of law left for the opinion of the Court) but only that it was under a claim of right. But an open and uninterrupted enjoyment from time immemorial under a claim of right seems to me to be all that is necessary for a presumption that it had such an origin as would establish the right, if a lawful origin was reasonably possible in law. That in such a case a lawful origin ought to be presumed, if it is reasonably possible, is established by many authorities."

Assuming then that these or similar general principles can properly be applied to the point now under consideration, I am prepared to hold that it is reasonably possible that the right claimed by the defendant may have had a lawful origin, and that it should be recognized as valid and subsisting at the date of the Convention and also of the agreement. I am further of opinion that this right, exercised in the manner in which it is shown to have been exercised by the defendant, may properly be described as a valuable or quasi-proprietary right, and that the defendant may also properly be described as one of the owners of the right.

In this state of facts the agreement was executed, and it is clear that it had or purported to have the effect of interfering with and indeed of nullifying the right of the defendant. It is contended by the defendant that the agreement was executed by the Governor contrary to the stipulations of the Convention, and that it was therefore *ultra vires* and cannot operate to deprive the defendant of his right. But to this it was answered by Mr. Sharp, in the course of his able argument for the plaintiffs, that the making of the Convention was an act of State and that it is not competent to the Court to inquire into any matter connected with it. Three cases were cited in support of this position. In *Secretary of State in Council of India v. Kamachee Boye Sahaba*, 13 Moore P.C.C. 22, the facts were that the Rajah of Tanjore, a native independent sovereign, but in virtue of treaties under the protection of the East India Company, having died without leaving issue male, the Company, in the exercise of their sovereign power and in trust for the British Government, seized the Raj of Tanjore, and the whole of the property of the deceased Rajah, as an escheat, on the ground that the dignity of the Raj was extinct for want of a male heir, and that the property of the late Rajah lapsed to the British Government. A suit was instituted by the respondent claiming, for herself as the eldest widow of the deceased Rajah and for the first married among his surviving widows, his private estate and effects. The respondent obtained a decree in the Supreme Court at Madras, but on appeal this decree was reversed by the Judicial Committee, which held that the seizure of the deceased Rajah's property was an act of State by a sovereign power and that the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction in respect of it. The general principle of law on which this decision was founded was that "the transactions of independent sovereign States between each other are governed by other laws than those which municipal courts administer; such courts have neither the means of deciding what is right, nor the power of enforcing any decision which they may make."

This decision was followed by Malins, V.C., in *Doss v. Secretary of State for India in Council*, L. R. 19 Eq. 509. In that case certain creditors of the King of Oudh, whose kingdom had been annexed by the East India Company as trustees for the British Government, sued the Secretary of State for India claiming to be entitled to a charge upon the revenue of the territory of Oudh. But it was held by the Vice-Chancellor that the annexation was a sover-

eign act of State which could not be reviewed by a municipal court.

The last of the three cases and the one most relied upon by Mr. Sharp is *Cook v. Sprigg*, [1899] A. C. 572. There the paramount chief of Pondoland had granted certain concessions for railway and other rights to the appellants. After the concessions had been granted, Pondoland was annexed to and became part of the British dominions, and the appellants sought to enforce against the Crown the privileges and rights conferred by the concessions. But it was held by the Judicial Committee, affirming the judgment of the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope and following *Secretary of State in Council of India v. Kamachee Boye Sahaba* supra, that they could not do this, on the ground that annexation is an act of State and any obligation assumed under a treaty to that effect, either to the ceding sovereign or to individuals, is not one which municipal courts are authorized to enforce.

I have carefully examined these cases, and I am bound to say that in the last case especially the language of the judgment is very comprehensive. But, on the best consideration that I can give to them, I have come to the conclusion that these cases are distinguishable from the case now before the Court. In the cases cited an attempt was made to enforce an obligation alleged to grow directly out of the act of State or to obtain redress for a wrong alleged to be involved directly in such act. And the proceedings in those cases were taken by private persons against the sovereign committing the act of State. But in the present case the subject-matter of the suit is not connected directly but only indirectly with the act of State, and the proceedings are by two private persons against another private person. It is alleged by the plaintiffs that a private right has been created in their favour by the Crown and that the defendant has invaded that right, to which it is answered by the defendant that the Crown had no power to create the right in question to his prejudice. It appears to me that in such a case it is competent for a municipal court to inquire into and determine the question whether the sovereign had the power to create the right that is sought to be enforced, even although such inquiry may involve an examination and interpretation of a convention with another sovereign. I think perhaps also that a distinction may be drawn between the acts of State in the cases cited and that in the present case. In those cases there was annexation pure and simple and the Crown assumed complete sovereignty of the territories annexed, in the present case there is only a lease for a term of years and the Crown has only a limited or qualified sovereignty in the leased district. The Convention is its document of title to the district, and the lands in the district are held subject to that title. For these reasons I am of opinion that the Court is not debarred from entertaining the objection taken by the defendant to the title of the plaintiffs and founded on the Convention, and I therefore proceed to consider the terms and effect of the Convention, so far as it bears on this matter now in litigation.

The Convention was executed by representatives of Her Majesty the Queen and His Majesty the Emperor of China, and was to take effect from the 1st July, 1898. The preamble and the first clause read as follows:—"Whereas it has for many years past been recognized that an extension of Hongkong territory is necessary for the proper defence and protection of the Colony: It has now been agreed between the Governments of Great Britain and China that the limits of British territory shall be enlarged under lease to the extent indicated generally on the annexed map. . . . The term of this lease shall be 99 years." Then follow clauses containing stipulations of various kinds, for the most part directed to the protection or reservation of certain rights of Chinese officials and people. And the fifth clause is in the following terms:—"It is further understood that there will be no expropriation or expulsion of the inhabitants of the district included within the extension, and that if land is required for public offices, fortifications, or like official purposes, it shall be bought at a fair price."

What, then, is the meaning of this clause? Has it the effect, as contended for by the defendant, of limiting or controlling the power

and discretion of the Crown in relation to the rights of property of the inhabitants of the leased district? Let us see what is the exact meaning of "expropriation." The word is defined as "the act of dispossessing an owner, either wholly or to a limited extent, of his property or proprietary rights." It is clear that the intention of the Chinese Government, in causing such a stipulation to be embodied in the Convention, was to ensure that their subjects in the territory to be handed over to Great Britain should be secured in the enjoyment, free from deprivation or interference by any person, of their rights of property and of residence in the territory. The power of expropriation was to be limited to the sole case of land required for public purposes, it being provided that land so required should be bought or "at a fair price." In the present instance I think that the granting to the plaintiffs of an exclusive right to the use and possession of the submarine area comprised in Lantau Marine Lot No. 2 amounted to an expropriation of the defendant in respect of his right of taking and appropriating coral and shells from that area. And when the plaintiffs' title is challenged on this ground, I think the answer must be that the Crown had no power to confer such title.

As to the general right of the Crown to make a lease or grant of land covered by the sea within the territorial limits, in Hall's Essay on the Rights of the Crown and the Privileges of the Subject in the Sea Shores of the Realm, at p. 6, it is said:—"The title of the King of England to the land or soil *aquâ maris cooperta* is similar to his title to all the *terra firma* in his dominions, as the first and original proprietor and lord paramount."

The *terra firma* of England has become, almost entirely, the property (by grant and tenure) of the subject. But the *terra aquâ maris cooperta* still remains to the King in wide and barren ownership. Some rare and antique instances may indeed be found of actual grants, by Kings of England, of certain portions of land *under the sea*, i.e. of both sea and land, to a certain extent. These grants have been made in such places where some creek or bay has afforded the means of exclusive possession." And the author proceeds to quote a text writer who says it is very disputable whether such grants can be effectively made. From all which it would seem that the right of making such grants, assuming it to exist, is in abeyance in modern times. In The Encyclopædia of the Laws of England, s.v. "Prerogative," it is said:—"Even so there remain in the books a large number of prerogative powers, which, though never formally repealed, are now never exercised. Laws in England are not abrogated by desuetude, but the revival of disused prerogatives would be regarded with great jealousy." And this leads me to say that when a question of right is raised in a court of law, that question must be determined with reference to legal considerations alone, and its determination cannot be influenced or affected by any political considerations which may be involved in the case. But, having regard to the special and unusual circumstances of this case, I may perhaps be excused for drawing attention to two official expressions of opinion which seem to have some bearing on the matter in hand. On the 8th October, 1898, Mr. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary of the Colony, acting as Special Commissioner for that purpose, made to the Colonial Office an elaborate "Report on the Extension of the Colony of Hongkong." The concluding paragraph of that report is in the following terms:—"In conclusion, it may, I trust, be gathered from the account of the new territory that it will form a valuable extension of Hongkong. It is favourably situated, has good harbours with safe anchorages, possesses a rich soil, and is inhabited by an industrious, hardy, and frugal race. Under Chinese rule enterprise has been at a discount, and progress has been at a standstill for centuries. The San On district of today must be much the same as it was four or five hundred years ago. But when British rule is established, and the people realize that justice prevails, that they are allowed to pursue their avocations in peace and freedom from illicit extortions, and that there is no unnecessary interference with their manners and customs, the spirit of enterprise will soon manifest itself, capitalists will be attracted to a region where their capital is not liable to official 'squeeze,'"

the resources of the country will be developed, and its prosperity will continue to increase?

Still more authoritative and still more to the point is the following extract from a despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Colony, bearing date the 6th January, 1899. In this despatch Mr. Chamberlain communicates to the Governor the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the future administration of the leased district, and in paragraph 24, dealing with the question of titles to land, there occurs the following passage:—

"The examination into titles should not be of too technical a nature, and where lengthened occupation or improvements can be shown, with no adverse claims from private individuals, a Government title should be granted, even if no other is forthcoming. Security for all reasonable rights in regard to land will be a great inducement to content and loyalty and to the popularizing of British rule."

This direction of the Secretary of State seems to be in accord with the following proposition which was advanced by counsel for the defendants *arguendo* in the case of *Attorney-General for British Honduras v. Bristowe supra*: "As to the nature of the right and title acquired by the defendants against the Crown, there is no instance on record where the Sovereign of England, having assumed the territorial dominion over a colony, has ever attempted to oust the rights of private individuals acquired by long possession and long industrial occupation." I have been unable to trace the reference given for this proposition to Dana's edition of Wheaton's International Law, but I believe the proposition correctly states the practice of the British Crown, when assuming the sovereignty of new territory.

I regret that the Crown was not represented at the hearing, since the validity of the lease granted by it to the plaintiffs has been called in question. It would seem that the Crown was entitled to have this suit restrained and its rights on the subject-matter of the litigation determined in proceedings to which it was itself a party: *Attorney-General v. Barker*, L. R. 7 Exch. 177. In that case Cleasby, B., said, at p. 186:—"I have understood it to be a general rule of law that where the title of the Crown to property comes in question, the Crown has the right to prevent that title being decided in any suit between subjects, and is entitled to have it decided in a proceeding to which the Crown itself is a party."

On the whole case, then, I am of opinion that the defendant has established the right to which he makes claim; that the letting of the premises by the Crown to the plaintiffs involves a denial and deprivation of that right and is an expropriation of the defendant within the meaning of the Convention; that by the terms of the Convention the Crown was unable to confer on the plaintiffs a title involving such expropriation; and that the plaintiffs are consequently unable to make title to the premises in exclusion of the defendant when acting in the exercise of his right. In my opinion, therefore, the plaintiffs are not entitled to maintain this suit against the defendant, and judgment must be entered for the defendant, with costs.

The Acting Puisne Judge said:—"The conclusion at which I have arrived in this case is, I regret to say, at variance with the conclusion arrived at by the Chief Justice. Having had an opportunity of reading that judgment, I adopt that portion of it which is introductory and sets out the facts of the case."

By a Convention dated 9th June, 1898, it was agreed between the Governments of Great Britain and China that the limits of British territory should be enlarged under lease. In pursuance of the Convention, a certain portion of Chinese territory which includes the *locus in quo* in the present case, was leased to Great Britain from 1st July, 1898.

As lessee of the *locus in quo* the Government of Hongkong on the 20th December, 1899, sublet that *locus in quo* to the plaintiff firm with the right to search for and obtain coral or shells from the bed of the sea, but so as not to interfere with fishing and navigation.

Under this lease the plaintiff firm sues the defendant for damages for trespass and conversion, to which defendant pleads that he has a right to take coral and shells because he had that right before 1st July, 1898, is an inhabitant of the leased territory, and is protected by the

Convention from being expropriated or dispossessed of that right.

During the hearing of the case counsel for plaintiffs admitted that Chinese fishermen had been in the habit of dredging for shells and coral for the purpose of lime-burning from Lantau M.L. 2 (the *locus in quo*), openly and believing themselves entitled as of right so to do, without interference by any one, from the limits of living memory until the granting of the lease of the above lot.

When looked at, this admission is nothing more than an admission of a habit; and, as such, may be evidence to help establish a right. But until the habit, either by itself or in company with other evidence, establishes a right, it remains a habit and cannot be styled a right.

Before defendant can successfully set up that he has been expropriated by the granting of the lease of 20th December, 1899, he must prove that he has been dispossessed of a right which he enjoyed under Chinese municipal law before 1st July, 1898. Moreover, he must establish that right by recourse to Chinese municipal law. Admitting that the defendant and his brother-fishermen have been in the habit from time immemorial of taking coral and shells without let or hindrance from the *fundus maris* belonging to the Emperor of China, he has yet to show that by the municipal laws of China such a proved habit has created a right in him and his comrades which he could maintain in Chinese court. That proof has not been forthcoming. And since the right must be proved by Chinese law, it follows that no principles of English law may be utilised to prove that by analogy or directly, a right existed under Chinese law.

The only other source of law available is public international law: but that governs the relation of nations *inter se*, and is not a guide on questions affecting the relations of a sovereign and his subject, which are regulated by municipal law.

Notwithstanding however that the defendant has no cause to complain of an expropriation guarded against in the Convention, it may be that, since 1st July, 1898, when the *locus in quo* became a portion of the leased territorial land and waters of Her Majesty the Queen, the defendant has, as a subject of Her Majesty, acquired certain rights of which the lease of the 20th December, 1899, deprived him. The rights of sovereign and subject in respect of the newly acquired territorial waters may be said briefly to be that the Crown has the right of ownership in such waters and the bed of such waters subject to the public right of navigation and anchoring in them: and that the Crown has also the rights of fishing subject to a right of a common fishery in the subject.

It is contended for the defendant not that rights of navigation or of anchorage have been infringed but that the right of a common fishery has been infringed, because such right carried with it a right to the bottom of the sea and therefore to the contents of that bottom. That however was a mere statement of counsel unsupported by authority. There are several reasons against this view. First it is incontestable that the *fundus maris* in territorial waters is vested absolutely in the Crown: this absolute ownership of the soil carries with it the absolute ownership of what is found on, in or under the soil: and I can find nothing to countenance the idea that the subject has, by common law or in any other way, a right to joint-ownership in the *fundus maris* or to participation in its products. Next, the right of a common fishery enjoyed by the public is a floating liberty of fishery with nets, hooks, etc., and is the right of fishing in the sea and public rivers open to all the public (see Hall on Seashore, pp. 50, 51, 52, 2nd edition). Thirdly, the shells taken by the defendant were dead shells or the shells of fish destroyed by natural causes before capture. In the case of *Bagot v. Orr*, 5 R.R. 668, the Court, while laying down that *prima facie* every subject had a right to take fish upon the seashore, paused before it would establish a general right to take shells in the absence of authority to support a claim of a right to take shells. *A fortiori*, it appears to me, should this Court pause before establishing, in the absence of supporting authority, a general right to take shells from the *fundus maris*. The distinction drawn between fish and shells is a clear one. A common fishery, being a right to take fish in

the sea and public rivers open to all the public, does not, therefore, in the light of *Bagot v. Orr*, include a right to take dead shells.

In my judgment, accordingly, defendant has failed to show either that he has been dispossessed of a right which he enjoyed prior to 1st July, 1898, or that he has been deprived of any right which accrued to him on and after that date. I am also of opinion that the Crown, as absolute owner of the *fundus maris* in question, was not prevented by any known rule of law from granting to the plaintiffs the rights conferred by the lease of 20th December, 1899.

I hold, therefore, that the plaintiffs are entitled to ten dollars as damages and to their costs of the suit.

Judgment for the defendant was given.

Mr. E. Hamilton Sharp (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

July 3rd.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
C. M. G. (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS
HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE).

THE MAN ON INSURANCE CASE.

Judgment was given in this case.

The Chief Justice said—This case comes before the Court on appeal from a judgment pronounced by myself on the 26th February last. It is an unhappy incident of the constitution of the Court of Appeal in this Colony that a Judge must, unless he is absent, sit on the hearing of an appeal from his own decision. The least that he can do in such circumstances is to carefully review his previous decision in the light of the further arguments placed before him on the hearing of the appeal, and to make sure, as far as he can, that he has not misapprehended the law or the facts or both, as the case may be. If he finds that there has been such misapprehension, it must be expected of him that he will be frank enough to say so and to rectify his mistake.

This duty of careful review I have honestly endeavoured to discharge in the present case. But I suppose it will occasion little surprise or disappointment when I say that I see no reason, in consequence of this fresh examination of the case, to alter or modify the conclusions which were stated in the judgment under appeal. Those conclusions still correctly represent my opinion on the questions which came up for decision in the case, and I desire that the judgment in which they are embodied may be regarded, *mutatis mutandis*, as my judgment on this appeal.

There are only two new points which were raised by Mr. Slade in his argument for the appellant and to which it seems necessary for me to refer.

In the first place it was said that in the case of a company limited by shares, as is the company which is a party to these proceedings, it is not made necessary by statute that articles of association should be registered along with the memorandum of association; that the provision at the end of section 18 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865—on the construction of which the decision turned in the case now under appeal—applies only to proceedings properly requisite and essential to the formation of a company, and cannot therefore apply to articles of association where the registrations of such articles is optional; and that the certificate of incorporation given by the Registrar cannot be extended in its effect so as to make it conclusive evidence as to matters not necessary to registration. If this argument is well founded, it follows that the certificate of incorporation given by the Registrar to the Man On Insurance Company, Limited, had no relation to and no effect on the articles of association, and cannot therefore be held to make them valid, notwithstanding the admitted defect in their execution.

This argument is ingenious and, if it is to prevail, the *ratio decidendi* of the judgment under appeal is gone. But I think a little consideration will show that it cannot prevail. Let us consider the position of section 18 in the

Ordinance and its relation to the other enactments dealing with the registration of a company.

Part I of the Ordinance, comprising sections 6 to 20, both inclusive, deals with the Constitution and Incorporation of Companies and Associations. Sections 6 to 13, both inclusive, make provision with respect to the formation of a company and to its memorandum of association. There are three kinds of companies recognized by these provisions, a company limited by shares, a company limited by guarantee, and an unlimited company. In each case there must be a memorandum of association, and that memorandum must contain certain specified things and must be executed in a certain specified manner. Then follow sections 14 to 16, both inclusive, which make provision with respect to the contents and mode of execution of the articles of association of a company. It is enacted that, in the case of a company limited by shares, the memorandum of association may be accompanied when registered, by articles of association, while, in the case of a company limited by guarantee or unlimited, it must be accompanied by such articles. In the case of a company limited by shares, if the memorandum is not accompanied by articles, the regulations contained in Table A in the First Schedule to the Ordinance are to be the regulations of the company, so far as they are applicable. Lastly, there are certain "general provisions," contained in sections 17 to 20, both inclusive. Sections 17 and 18, so far as they are material, are in the following terms: "17. The memorandum of association and the articles of association, if any, shall be delivered to the Registrar, who shall retain and register the same. 18. Upon the registration of the memorandum of association, and of the articles of association in cases where articles of association are required by this Ordinance or by the desire of the parties to be registered, the Registrar shall certify under his hand that the company is incorporated, and in the case of a limited company that the company is limited: the subscribers of the memorandum of association, together with such other persons as may from time to time become members of the company, shall thereupon be a body corporate by the name, etc., etc. A certificate of the incorporation of any company given by the Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that all the requisitions of this Ordinance in respect of registration have been complied with."

Now, it is clear that in the case of two classes of companies, namely, a company limited by guarantee and an unlimited company, two documents must be delivered to the Registrar, namely, a memorandum and articles, and both such documents must be registered by him before he grants his certificate of incorporation. If the Registrar were to register a company of either of these two classes in a case where only a memorandum of association had been delivered to him, I am inclined to think that the registration would be a mere nullity. And I entertain no doubt that, in the case of a company of either of these two classes, the provision at the end of section 18 applies to the articles of association as well as to the memorandum of association and is conclusive evidence that all the requisitions [quæ. requirements] of the Ordinance in respect of the registration of the articles have been complied with, that is, in other words, that they have been duly registered and are the valid and operative articles of the company. Then how does the case of a company limited by shares differ from the case of a company of one of these two classes in respect of the registration of articles of association? Simply, as I think, on a point of evidence. It is, it appears to me, a mere question of fact in the case of a company limited by shares whether or not articles were delivered to the Registrar along with the memorandum, and the moment it is established that they were so delivered, it follows that they must or at any rate ought to have been dealt with in the same way as articles which are required to be delivered. And when they are so delivered and registered, I am unable to read them out of the words at the end of section 18, which were intended by the Legislature to ensure the validity of all matters connected with the registration of companies. Mr. Slade says that the Registrar's certificate of incorporation of

the present company makes no mention of any articles of association. No doubt that is so, but neither does it mention any memorandum of association. It merely states that the "company is duly incorporated as a company, etc., etc., and is duly registered in accordance with the Companies Ordinance, 1865." That registration had reference, as a matter of fact, not only to a memorandum of association but also to articles of association, and I am of opinion that those articles come within the terms of the beneficial enactment at the end of section 18, and that the admitted defect in their execution is cured by its operation.

The second point that is raised is that, inasmuch as the articles of association of the company were not signed by the subscribers to the memorandum of association, as required by the Ordinance, the Registrar had no jurisdiction or power to receive and register them, and therefore his registration of them cannot give them validity. Of course, it may be admitted that the Registrar, on receiving important documents of this kind with a view to their registration, ought to examine them carefully in order to ascertain whether they comply, in form and in substance, with the requirements of the Ordinance. And it is equally clear that he ought not to register the documents unless they do comply with such requirements. This is his duty. But supposing that he fails in his duty, either through negligence or through a mistaken impression as to his power or duty, and gives registration to a document which ought not to have been registered. Then the question arises, is not this the very case provided for by the enactment at the end of section 18 of the Ordinance? Was not that enactment passed with the express object of providing a remedy for mistakes of this kind, and of ensuring that, when once a company has received its certificate of incorporation, it shall not be necessary for any person dealing with it to go behind the certificate and inquire whether the proceedings preliminary to registration have been regularly taken? It is true that the certificate of incorporation has been held in a few cases not to be conclusive. But those cases, as was said by Mr. Francis, for the most part turn on the point that the express certificate was given in contravention of the policy of the Ordinance that, in order to be registered, an association must consist of seven persons at least. Or, to put the matter in a broader way, none of those cases does more than decide that the certificate is not conclusive that the company is one capable of being registered under the English Act. But to say that the Registrar has no jurisdiction to create a company by issuing a certificate in such a case is, in my opinion, a very different thing from saying that he has no jurisdiction to register articles of association because they are not duly signed. Further, it may be asked, if the argument is good, how far is it to be carried? Would the Court be invited to hold that the Registrar had no jurisdiction to register articles of association because they were type-written and not printed, as required by the Ordinance, and that therefore his certificate of incorporation could not cure the defect? It appears to me that this argument, if forced to its logical conclusion, leaves us scope for the operation of the provision at the end of section 18 of the Ordinance and therefore that it cannot be allowed to prevail.

I am of opinion that the judgment appealed from should be affirmed and this appeal be dismissed, with costs.

The Acting Puisne Judge said—In this matter I have the misfortune to differ from the judgment of the Chief Justice. This is an appeal from that judgment which was delivered on 26th July last and discharged an order obtained by the appellant Ho Tung calling upon the Man On Insurance Company, Ltd., to show cause why the register of members of the Company should not be rectified by removing the names of certain persons therefrom in respect of two lots of seven and four shares in the company and substituting for such names the name of Ho Tung as the holder of the said shares.

The main conclusion arrived at in the judgment under appeal was that the certificate of incorporation was conclusive as to the due registration of the articles of association of the Company and that the articles which had been put in evidence were the valid and operative articles of association of the Company.

Before proceeding further, I would remark that the requisites for constituting articles of association must be distinguished from the requisitions in respect of registration upon which alone the certificate of incorporation operates, and the latter again from registration itself.

The last portion of section 18 of Ordinance 1 of 1865 enacts that a certificate of the incorporation of any company given by the registrar shall be conclusive evidence that all the requisitions of the ordinance in respect of registration have been complied with.

The first thing to be done, then, is to ascertain what are the requisitions of the ordinance in respect of registration.

Judicial opinion upon this point is neither profuse nor uniform: but from the observations of Lord Chelmsford in the case of *Oakes v. Turquand* L.R. 2 H.L. at page 354; of Kekewich J. in the case of *In re National Debenture and Assets Corporation* (1891) 2 Ch. at page 510, and of Bowen L.J. and Kay L.J. at pages 519 and 520 respectively of the same case, I gather that the requisitions of the Ordinance in respect of registration are set out in sections 6 and 17 of the Ordinance.

It was urged by respondents' counsel that the requisitions in respect of registration referred to in the last portion of section 18 were (1) the registration of the memorandum of association and (2) the registration of the articles of association, *by desire*, mentioned in the opening sentence of section 18; and that these requisitions were the only requisitions of the ordinance in respect of registration upon which the concluding paragraph of the section operated.

There appear to me to be several reasons against adopting this view. The words (which also occur in Section 6) are the requisitions of *this Ordinance* not of *this Section*. Moreover, registration itself is not the same as a requisition in respect of registration; and, thirdly, judicial opinion points to sections 6 and 17 as containing, if not all, yet at least some of the requisitions of the Ordinance in respect of registration.

Amongst the requisitions of the Ordinance in respect of registration which are to be found in section 17 is this requisition, viz., that the articles of association, *if any*, shall be delivered to the registrar.

In other words, delivery of articles of association, *if any*, to the registrar is a requisition in respect of registration.

This can in my opinion mean nothing except that the delivery of *existing* articles of association to the registrar is a requisition in respect of registration.

The words of the section do not admit of being construed to mean that delivery of any thing other than extant articles of association or of any thing merely purporting to be extant articles of association, is a requisition in respect of registration.

The use of the words *if any* after the words "articles of association" makes it clear, in my judgment, that one of the requisitions contemplated by section 17 may or may not arise: if there are existing articles of association which have been delivered, then the requisition arises and the certificate of incorporation is conclusive that the requisition has been complied with: but if there are no existing articles of association, the requisition does not arise and the certificate has nothing to operate upon.

The Court is accordingly free to examine whether articles of association of the Company existed: and this conclusion is supported by the substance of the cases cited in argument and dealing with the subject of the existence of a memorandum of association.

Those cases were:—

In re Barnard's Banking Company, Peel's case 2 Ch. App. 674: *Oakes v. Turquand* L. R. 2 H. L. 325:

In re Nassau Phosphate Company L. R. 2 Ch. D. 610:

In re National Debenture and Assets Corporation [1891] 2 Ch. 505 and *In re Laxon & Company* [1892] 3 Ch. 555.

The sum of such cases, it appears to me, is that the certificate of incorporation is conclusive evidence that a document signed by seven qualified persons as a memorandum of association is the memorandum of association of a Company, but not of the fact that seven

persons had signed a document purporting to be a memorandum of association. It was open to a party to prove that seven qualified persons had not signed, and that therefore there was no memorandum of association; but once a document signed by seven or more qualified persons was delivered as the memorandum of association of a Company, all further inquiry was barred as to whether the document was in fact the memorandum of association of the Company. So here it is open to prove that the parties subscribing the memorandum of association had not subscribed the document alleged to contain the articles of association of the Company.

Now articles of association are, I take it, such regulations prescribed for a Company as the subscribers to the memorandum of association deem expedient and which subscribers to the memorandum of association have signed. The signatures of the subscribers are evidence that certain regulations have been deemed by them to be expedient.

In the present instance, the document delivered to the register and now propounded as the articles of association of the Company, contains merely a series of regulations not signed by the subscribers to the memorandum of association, and therefore not proved to be the regulations prescribed for the Company by such subscribers and therefore not the articles of association of the Company.

The result is that the Memorandum of Association was not accompanied by articles of association and that under section 15 the regulations contained in the Table marked A in the First Schedule to Ordinance 1 of 1865 are to be deemed the articles of association of the Company, under which, as was admitted by the Company, counsel during the argument in the Court below, the right of the appellant to have the transfers registered is unquestionable.

In my opinion, therefore, the judgment appealed from should be reversed with costs both here and in the Court below, and it should be ordered that the register of members of the Man On Insurance Company, Limited, should be rectified in the manner originally moved for by the appellant.

The Chief Justice—The order of the Court will be then that the judgment appealed from be confirmed, and the appeal dismissed with costs.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for Mr. Ho Tung and Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the Insurance Company.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On the 5th instant a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-president (Dr. Lowson, Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Lieut.-Col. Ryan, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE BOARD AND INSANITARY PROPERTY.
Minutes were submitted by the Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary and the M.O.H. relative to the Board's powers of dealing with insanitary property.

The Acting Colonial Secretary minuted:—“Has the Board found its powers of dealing with the premises unfit for human habitation insufficient, and if it has will the Board state what additional it requires?”

Dr. Clark minuted:—“The Board has no power of dealing with premises unfit for human habitation. It can serve a notice for the abatement of a nuisance, and if the Magistrate considers that such nuisance renders a house unfit for habitation he can order its closure until the nuisance is abated, but the Magistrate's order is made on the owner of the property, and when the property changes hands the order is no longer binding.”

Moreover, such an order involves the incessant watching of the property, which as a rule ought to be demolished, but for this there are no powers.

No. 1, Chak Lane, is a property which ought to have been demolished long ago, and yet there is no power to order this to be done, such as exists at home under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

“Many of the narrow lanes (courts they are termed in the Imperial Legislation) are rendered far more insanitary than they otherwise would be by the erection of rooms over the entrance to the lane, blocking the access of light and ventilation to the lane. These could be removed under the Working Classes Act above-named, but here we can do nothing with them.”

“Whole areas which are insanitary can be laid out afresh or a wide street driven through them to render the remainder reasonably habitable under the Imperial Act, but it does not appear that such a thing is possible here, although it is quite conceivable that it might be desirable in places.”

“The additional powers needed by the Board comprise (a) authority to order the demolition of any insanitary property if the nuisances which render it unfit for human habitation are not abated within a reasonable time; (b) power to order the removal of obstructive buildings, i.e., such as render other buildings unfit for habitation; (c) power to lay out insanitary areas afresh or improve them by opening out streets through the area. Finally, the Board urgently need power dealing with the present excessive height of buildings in relation to the width of streets, and an enactment to the effect that no house may be raised to a greater height than it is at present, unless it be less than one and a half times the width of the street on which it fronts, would even be welcome, for every day's delay in dealing with this question is increasing the difficulty of its final settlement, and there can be no doubt that a settlement must be arrived at before long.”

Fifty-four years ago Liverpool obtained far stronger regulations on this subject than have ever been asked for here, and yet we are still without them, and I would beg, therefore, to again direct the most serious attention of the Government to my remarks on this subject contained in my annual report for last year, a copy of which is attached.”

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—“We certainly should have power to close dwellings unfit for human habitation. The Law officers should be requested to draft such powers, as they say everything we propose is illegal.”

The PRESIDENT said that if they liked they would go into this matter that day, but he thought it was rather a big question, and they might refer it to a sub-committee. He was in the hands of the Board.

Dr. Lowson said no committee of the Sanitary Board could ever satisfactorily solve this question without having proper legal advice, and until the legal advisers of the Crown make up their minds in some way or other to agree it was no use their sitting down and wasting their time drawing up New Bills and long minutes like that of Dr. Clark's and getting nothing done. He proposed that the consideration of matter be postponed for a fortnight.

Lieut.-Col. RYAN seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE PROPOSED SANITARY WORKS FOR 1901.

The following minute by the M. O. H. relative to the proposed Sanitary works for 1901 was submitted:—

“I understand that the Government are anxious to have a definite statement from the Sanitary Board in reply to their letter No. 743, of the 1st May last, so that provision may be made in the estimates for 1901 for such of the works recommended by the Board as it is thought the finances of the colony will be likely to meet.”

“I do not see that that Board can do better than somewhat amplify their recommendations of March last contained in C. S. O. 507/00, by specifying the sites of the latrines and urinals, and by again urging the necessity for a refuse destructor, which is wanted almost as much for the destruction of refuse from plague-infected houses as for the ordinary domestic refuse of the city.”

“I would suggest, therefore, that the Board recommend for next year's programme (1) the erections of eight urinals on the sites specified in the committees report contained in C. S. O. 1271/00; (2) the erection of four additional public latrines on the following sites:—(a) on a portion of the triangle opposite Wanchai Market; (b) at the junction of Caroline Road and Caroline Hill Road; (c) at the junction of Second Street and Western Street;

(d) an experimental underground latrine on a site to be selected by the Director of Public Works; (3) some further scheme for the conservation of the fresh water supply of the colony; (4) the refuse destructor, the erection of which was sanctioned in June, 1899.”

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby minuted:—“(1) I am not in favour of these urinals, and think we must go on with what we have for a time until the new reservoirs in Tytam are completed. (2) I do not believe in the underground latrines. (3) We have got sufficient schemes for fresh water supply for the next ten years. We should have a vote for \$50,000 for them in 1901. (4) Let us have the destructor.”

The following minutes were also appended:—
Mr. McKie:—“I support the views of the M.O.H.”

Dr. Hartigan:—“The latrines and urinals are a necessity, and water must be provided. It is absurd talking of doing nothing.”

Lieut.-Col. Ryan:—“I am strongly in favour of all the proposals of the M.O.H. Why not try the experiment of an underground latrine and set the matter at rest? Something should be done without delay to remedy the scandalous lack of ordinary conveniences in the colony.”

Mr. Osborne:—“I agree with the M.O.H.”

Dr. Lowson:—“I agree with the M. O. H.'s (1); I agree with the President's 2; I would like to hear more from the D. P. W. on (3) I have heard so many ‘Tales from the Tytam Hills’ that I prefer to trust my own judgment now on the question of water supply. I agree with No. 4. Perhaps there are other matters which want considering.”

Dr. Lowson asked if the President could inform them if an underground latrine had been definitely put down in the estimates, and if any instructions had been given to construct one.

The PRESIDENT said the proposal to construct underground latrines emanated from the Surveyor to the Board, Mr. Drury, who was now at home. Mr. Drury wrote a report which was printed and circulated, and spoken a good deal about, but at the same time he confessed he (the President) did not believe in underground latrines for this colony. If they sank down 13 feet in the lower part of the city they would come to water, and he believed an underground latrine would be impossible except at an enormous expense. Then on the higher levels they would come to hard rock and would experience great difficulty. Before Mr. Drury went away he asked him to prepare a plan and an estimate for an underground latrine, but he did not do so. Judging from the minutes it would appear as though nothing had been done in this matter, but he might state that during the last 12 months two latrines had been completed, two commenced, and another designed.

Lieut.-Col. RYAN said that notwithstanding the President's statement as to the laudable activity of the Public Works department in constructing these public conveniences, the fact still remained that this colony was in a lamentable position in regard to them, and he thought the members of the Board were fully justified in pressing this matter.

Dr. CLARK said their duty was to make provision in next year's estimates for certain sanitary works, and he begged to propose that that Board recommend the government to make provision in next year's estimates for the following sanitary works: firstly, eight public urinals on the sites recommended by the Board; secondly, four additional public latrines; thirdly, an extension of the waterworks for the supply of the city of Victoria; and fourthly, the refuse destructor recommended by the Board and approved by His Excellency the Governor in June, 1899.

Dr. Lowson seconded and the motion was carried.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The committee appointed to consider the question of public conveniences presented their report, in which they recommended the placing of conveniences opposite Wanchai Market, Murray Pier (as an annex to the new Victoria Recreation Club), below Battery Path, under the steps at the south-west corner of the Central Market, below the slope leading up to the Civil Hospital grounds from Queen's Road West, at the corner of Second Street and Western Street, over the sea in the neighbourhood of Canton

Wharf, on the Praya Reclamation, as an annex to the new Government buildings (for Europeans only); beneath the steps at the top of Duddell Street; on the vacant land at Peddar's Hill and at the foot of the steps leading to Wyndham Street; in the base of the Clock Tower until it is removed; on vacant land on the east side of Old Bailey; on the site of the disused fountain opposite No. 2 Police Station.

On the motion of Dr. Lowson, seconded by Lieut.-Col. RYAN, the report was adopted, and it was decided to forward a copy to the Government.

EUROPEAN DISTRICT RESERVATION ORDINANCE.

A letter was read from the Acting Colonial Secretary in reply to the resolution of the Board recommending the Government to extend the provisions of European District Reservation Ordinance No. 16 of 1888 to a portion of the Kowloon Peninsula, and stating that the question was under the consideration of the Government.

ANTI-PLAGUE SERUM.

Reports were submitted on anti-plague serum and also minutes by Dr. Lowson and Dr. Clark.

Dr. CLARK said that in view of the present political situation in China, any attempt to experiment in this matter would be ill-advised, and he proposed that the matter be considered three months hence.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded and the motion was carried.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

A minute was submitted by the M. O. H. relative to smoke nuisances. He said:—

"I frequently receive complaints respecting smoke nuisances, and am powerless to deal with them in the present state of the law.

"In view of the steady increase in the number of establishments causing such nuisances, I think the Board should recommend the Government to introduce a short Smoke Abatement Ordinance. Among the principle offenders at present are a foundry in the Queen's Road and a pumping engine on the Reclamation near the Queen's Building, while the French mail steamers are notorious offenders in this respect.

"In the Imperial Public Health Act, 1875, smoke nuisances can be dealt with just as any other nuisance, but the Hongkong Public Health Ordinance gives no such powers."

The following minutes were also appended:—

Dr. Hartigan:—"The M. O. H. might have added the disinfecting apparatus at West Point to his list. I agree with the M. O. H."

Mr. Chan A Fook:—"I think such Ordinance is necessary."

Lieut.-Col. Ryan:—"I agree with the M. O. H."

Mr. Bideley:—"I agree with the Mr. C. H."

Dr. Lowson:—"I agree with the M. O. H."

The President:—"I do not agree. I think there is very little smoke except from Chinese cooking for an hour or so in a day."

Dr. CLARK proposed that the Board recommend the Government to make the law as to smoke nuisances the same in the colony that it is at home.

Mr. OSBORNE said it was all very well to make a law to compel people to consume their own smoke, but the people who passed that law should tell them how to do it. He knew that several engineers in the colony had been asked how this smoke nuisance could be abated, and they had given it up as a bad job. He proposed as an amendment that the matter be referred to the Government, and that they be asked to institute enquiries.

Dr. CLARK said he was quite prepared to let his motion drop and second that of Mr. OSBORNE. His (Dr. Clark's) motion was not seconded.

Mr. Osborne's proposition was carried.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS.

An application for exemption from concreting the ground floor of No. 9, Arbuthnot Road, was refused.

An application for exemption from constructing a backyard to No. 10 and 14, Gage Street, was deferred.

THE LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The fortnightly limewashing return showed that there had been two prosecutions in the Eastern District and 166 in the Central Districts, the fines in the former amounting to \$20 and in the latter to \$1,061.

THE PLAGUE AT MACAO.

There were 50 deaths in Macao for the week ended 17th June, 16 being from plague.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death rate for the week ended 23rd June was 34.1, against 31.1 for the previous week and 50.4 for the corresponding week last year.

This was all the business.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA

THE CAPTURE OF THE TAKU FORTS—THE RELIEF OF TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Taku, 22nd June.

History has once more repeated itself—the Taku Forts being again bombarded and captured by the forces of a combined Foreign Fleet. The fight took place last Sunday, 17th inst., being commenced at 12.45 p.m. by the Chinese, who had refused to accede to the ultimatum issued by the admirals for the handing over of the forts by 2 p.m. that day. The forts were bombarded by the smaller ships of the combined fleets, the water being too shallow for the larger vessels to get sufficiently close to join in the attack. Each Power sent a storm-party on shore, who, as soon as the naval firing ceased, attacked the forts from the rear and carried them at the bayonet's point, the British naval brigade being the first to hoist their flag. Seeing that the Russians were hard pressed, our force immediately went to their assistance and assisted to carry the fort assigned to their contingent, each foreign brigade having been allotted a specific duty, to lessen the confusion which must happen in attacks of this kind.

Considering the strength of the position and the heavy modern ordnance used against them, the casualties of the combined forces were light—only just over 100, including one killed and nine wounded in the British brigade. During the engagement a Russian gunboat received a shot through one of her boilers, causing an explosion and wounding a large number of the crew. H. M. destroyer *Whiting* also received a shot through her bunker, which put her out of action but injured no one. The *Fame* captured four Chinese destroyers at this anchorage, shooting those who resisted, while the majority jumped overboard. The captured craft were distributed, the Russians, French, Germans, and British taking one each as a memento of the action.

As the British commander-in-chief's communications had been cut off from the interior, and Tientsin threatened, it was absolutely essential that these forts, which command the entrance of the Peiho River, should be in the possession of the combined forces and used as a base for future operations.

The ships at present at Taku are the *Algerine*, *Aurora*, *Barfleur*, *Centurion*, *Endymion*, *Fame*, *Orlando*, *Terrible* (British); *Rosita* (Russian); *Hertha*, *Kaiserin Augusta*, *Hebe*, *Gefion* (German); *Newark* (U.S.); *D'Entrecasteaux* (French); *Zenta* (Austrian); *Elba* (Italian); and five Japanese.

Capt. Bailey of the *Aurora* and Capt. Burke of the *Orlando* are in Tientsin; Capt. Warren is moving up with the relief column; Capt. Callaghan of the *Endymion* is attending to the landing and transport. Capt. Jellicoe is with Admiral Seymour.

Later.

It appears that the English Admiral had with him a composite force of British, Russians, French, Germans, Americans and Japanese, consisting of about 2,000 men, one half of whom were Bluejackets and Marines from our fleet. Taking 250 rounds of ammunition per man, they proceeded by rail from here en route to Peking on the 13th inst., but on getting through Tientsin found that the railway had been destroyed in several places, which caused considerable delays. Time being of the utmost importance the Admiral decided to leave the railway and proceed by road, since when nothing has been heard from him, although no real anxiety is felt for the safety of the force under his command. After the capture of the Forts, Tientsin was occupied by the combined forces, Captain Bayley (H.M.S. *Aurora*) being in command of the Naval Brigade at that place, but communication was cut shortly after the town was occupied, although news got through each way

by runners. Intelligence came through yesterday that they had had severe fighting in the place, the rebels repeatedly storming the positions, and were being bombarded by heavy guns from war-junks as well as from the land. Reinforcements were urgently needed, guns being especially asked for and apparently much wanted. The *Terrible* arrived yesterday with 400 troops on board from Hongkong, having made a quick passage up, her timely arrival enabled a relieving force to be at once sent to their assistance and Tientsin was probably saved from horrors that would have eclipsed those that occurred in the "Mutiny" days. During the cruiser's passage, Captain Scott mounted several 12-pdr. quick-firers similar to those which have already done such good service in South Africa, and to-day some of these guns with a Naval Brigade from that ship headed for service on shore. This crew will have a unique experience, taking part in two campaigns whilst both are still proceeding; having provided the greater portion of the Naval Brigade for the relief of Ladysmith, they will know well how to duplicate that performance.

Owing to absolute lack of transport and the railway to Tientsin being partially destroyed, great difficulty is experienced in moving up supplies and guns.

Details of the taking of the forts was obtained to-day, which show how stubborn was the resistance offered by the rebels.

Taku, 25th June.

The situation at Taku remains practically as it is when described in my last letter, except that the troops of all nationalities are now arriving quickly and that news of the relief of Tientsin is expected very soon. Nothing has yet been heard of the Commander-in-chief and his force. The European residents here were very uneasy to-night, as vague rumours were afloat that the rebels were near the town. Every precaution has been taken to-day against any rising or trouble that may occur day or night.

I hear that the Russians have concentrated a large number of troops at Newchwang, and propose to proceed from that place to Peking and Tientsin. The Manchurians, however, are said to be rising to oppose them.

The rebels have gathered in great numbers to oppose the Tientsin relief column, and beyond the fact that a great fire can be seen from Tientsin, nothing further is known since my last letter.

H.M.S. *Terrible* left Taku yesterday and is now at Chefoo, where there are also two British gunboats, two Japanese cruisers and a Chinese vessel.

HOW TIENTSIN WAS RELIEVED—THE ACCOUNT OF A RELIEVER.

A private letter received in the Colony gives a graphic description of the relief of Tientsin by the composite force, by one of the rescuers who went up from Hongkong by the *Terrible*—which, by the way, he reports, ran one time put on work for 19 knots and was only able to get 9, owing to the tremendously heavy seas. He writes that "the Taku Forts are of the very best, and beautifully armed. It beats me how they were taken." He continues:—"At 7 a.m. next morning [after arrival] we were taken to Taku, our base camp. Going up the river, it was very nice hearing soldiers and sailors of all nations cheering us as two hours after disembarking we entrained for our first camp, for Tientsin was reported in flames and very precarious. We had not gone ten miles before we ran off the line, our first carriage carrying our gun being totally wrecked. Capt. Cradock, R.N., and Major Morris were in it and got badly bruised. In due course, after repairing the line in various places, we arrived at our first camp. Next morning we started again at 3 a.m., this time marching, clearing the country right and left of the line, so as to allow the train containing the Russians, 400 Infantry, with 4 guns, to come up. After arrival in camp a reconnaissance in force, 200 strong, was made and some soldiers or Boxers were met with. Our men knocked the stuffing out of them and burnt their villages. Next morning we again advanced at 3 a.m., our object being Tientsin, but honestly we never expected to get there, as two previous columns had failed. However, with some 1,500 Russians, 200 Germans, 100 Yankees, 300 Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 300 Bluejackets we advanced, the Russians on the right of the railway line, British on the left. At about 8 a.m. we came

into action, the Russians having a terrific fusillade. At this time we cleared all the villages on the river-bank, burning them as we advanced. In due time the Russians received a check, and we feared a reverse; but it was decided that the Russians should take the station and hold it, and the British should endeavour to take a strongly held village and a school. This we promptly replied to. . . . When within a 1,000 yards we came under a very severe musketry fire. When within 400 yards we couldn't stick the fire any longer, so we fixed bayonets, Americans on the right, sailors in the centre, Fusiliers on the left. We gave three cheers and raced for the village, clearing all in front of us, killing innumerable Chinese, formed up at the far end, saw the Union Jack, crossed the river over a bridge of piles, and entered British Tientsin. The sight was worth a life-time. How we cheered and were cheered, the women and children crying with joy and bringing our men beer and anything they wanted!"

A GERMAN DESCRIPTION OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd publishes a full description in English, translated from their Extra of the 24th ult., of the affair of the 17th ult., written by Mr. H. Rehquate, First Officer of the *Fuping*, the regular correspondent, Mr. Herrings, having been wounded on the *Illis*. He says:—At midnight the German gunboat *Illis* and the French gunboat *Lion* were still at anchor opposite the railway-wharf in the upper reach of the river; there was a strong ebb tide. All the merchant vessels were at anchor in the upper reach of the river, whilst the Russian and English gunboats were at anchor in the lower. One small Japanese and one American gunboat were moored alongside the Railway Wharf to guard the upper river and to protect the women and children. At 12.45 the Chinese fired the first shot from one of the forts; this was followed quickly by shots from other forts directed partly on the upper and partly on the lower river, where the gunboats were at anchor. The booming of the guns and hissing of the shells proclaimed but too clearly that China had ignored the ultimatum of the allied Powers and had declared war against the world. Shells whizzed past us and now and then pieces struck the ship and the wharf. The gunboats did not take up the positions assigned to them till about 2 a.m. They then took up their position under cover of the village whence they could aim with perfect freedom. The Russian gunboats were stationed opposite the furthest forts, as they had the heaviest guns. The *Algerine* and *Illis* came in nearer the Northern fort, which had to be taken first and needed watching more closely. The gunboats first directed their fire against the N. Western fort, and, after that was taken at 3.30 a.m. by the storming party the line of fire was directed against the next fort, although darkness still rendered accurate shooting on either side very difficult. It was therefore most fortunate that this fort fell into the hands of the Russians, Japanese and Germans just at break of day. The flags of these nations were immediately hoisted. With daylight the firing from the forts became far more accurate and was at times really good. I was able to watch how every shot fell nearer and nearer its mark. Shots no longer flew over our heads, as the Chinese gunners soon found out that they were aiming too high with their heavy guns and soon shortened the range. If these guns had been able to find the range sooner, I am afraid little would have remained of the six gunboats. It is most fortunate that more damage was not done to merchant vessels, during the time that the Chinese aimed too high. Splinters from shells several times struck the decks of the *Fu Ping* and *Sungping*. The *Knissberg* had to shift her anchorage and land all passengers, who took refuge behind coalheaps. At about 4 a.m. in the morning the *Illis* gave the signal for the advance by hoisting a black ball at the masthead. We could see the pinace from H.F.M.S. *Herttha* going hither and thither in a veritable hail of bullets, conveying orders to the other ships. The maxims on board the *Illis* now fired on the men manning the big guns at the forts which were visible (large Krupp Cannons), with great success, whilst the heavier guns of the *Algerine* and *Illis* fired on the heavy guns of the Northern fort. At last the Chinese Officers realise the necessity of destroying the

Maxims and fire with great success on the *Illis*. Six of these maxims are silenced, and the *Illis* struck by shells time after time becomes almost a wreck. The funnel, bridge, deckhouses, bow steering-house and telegraph were swept away entirely. Capt. Lans, who was on the bridge, was severely wounded and Lieutenant Hellmann and seven men killed. One of the Russian boats, being repeatedly struck by shells causing great destruction, heeled on one side in an alarming manner. Capt. Lans, whose foot had been shattered, remained at his post giving instructions until the battle had been practically decided. He was then carried away to prevent his bleeding to death. Between 4 and 5 o'clock a fierce general bombardment took place. The Northern forts were now in a critical position as they were also threatened with the fire from the North-West fort, which had already been captured, whilst the marines landed from the *Algerine* were storming from the river side. Suddenly the Southern fort was destroyed by a Russian melinite bomb striking the magazine. The French gunboat then directed a terrible quick-gunfire on the next Southern fort with excellent result. At 6 o'clock the British successfully stormed the Northern fort with great courage, sustaining only a light loss. At the same time the Southern forts were stormed. The *Illis*, followed by the *Algerine*, the Russian and French gunboats, steamed opposite the forts firing from the mouth of the river. A most fortunate shot struck the powder magazine of the second fort, which exploded with a tremendous shock, throwing half the fort into ruins. After this, firing ceased for about 10 minutes. Then the forts recommenced and fought desperately to save the ones which remained. But in vain. The guns of the Northern forts now manned by Europeans directed their fire on the Southern forts and the Chinese fled precipitately westwards wherever they could. At 7 o'clock all the forts were taken, and the German Marines hoisted their flag on the South forts. The Chinese had defended themselves well, but the forts were much stronger than had been expected. They had not been trained to fire at such short range, otherwise far greater damage would have been done. All firing ceased at about 7.20 a.m., as the Chinese soldiers had fled and it was not deemed advisable to pursue them. The English torpedo-boat *Whiting* captured four Chinese torpedo-boats in front of the Arsenal. The crews of these had fled and they had not even got up steam. At 7.30 all was quiet and the sun shone on this terrible picture of death and devastation. It was Sunday morning. The flags of the allied Powers floated proudly over the various forts. The killed and wounded were now attended to and all the boats had their flags half mast. On the ships about 30 were killed and 60 to 70 wounded. The French lost two killed, the German eight, the English none (but four wounded during the storming of the fort) and the remaining casualties were on the three Russian boats. I do not know what losses the storming party sustained, but I hear that the Japanese lost their leader and ten men. The bodies of hundreds of dead Chinese were cremated on the following day. The devastation of the forts showed but too clearly how accurate the firing of the Europeans had been.

TWO IMPERIAL EDICTS IN ANSWER TO THE MEMORIALISTS.

[FROM THE "CHUN NGOI SAN PO."]

The following Imperial Edict, dated the 25th ult., has been telegraphed to H.E. Li Hung-chang:—This decree is issued to acknowledge the receipt of the telegrams sent to the Throne by Li Hung-chang, Li Peng-heng and others. The present crisis has broken out accidentally but it is not an imaginary one. The Throne, having been hitherto very careful to maintain friendly relations with the foreign Powers, does not venture on war in a thoughtless spirit. With regard to the question of strength and weakness between China and the foreign Powers it is not only men of sense who perceive it, it is a matter of common knowledge. When the Boxers commenced to burn the churches and kill the missionaries and their followers, whose enemies they are, we took into consideration the questions of suppressing them or of exhorting them to return peacefully to their own homes, both of these courses presenting difficulties. On the 16th ult. the foreign men-

of-war of different countries assembled at Taku asked for the Taku forts to be handed over to them not later than 2 p.m. on the 17th. As Lo Wing-kwong, the officer in charge of the forts, did not comply with their demand, they accordingly opened fire, which Lo Wing-kwong was compelled to return. The encounter lasted for some time and the forts were at last taken. Thus war was first declared by the foreigners and not by us. Now both people and soldiers have been greatly enraged, so that the Legations in Peking are in a most dangerous position. We still do our utmost to protect the Legations. The above is a full account of the critical state of affairs at present in Peking. It is too far to forecast whether the position will turn out ill or well. You Viceroy and Governors should all obey the Imperial decrees, and every one must do his duty, watching carefully the opportunity and the position, to the utmost of his ability.

The Viceroy has also received the following Imperial Edict by telegraph:—An Imperial decree issued yesterday saying that either to suppress the Boxers or to exhort them to return to their own countries presented difficulties, and that it is the foreign Powers who first declared war, has been telegraphed to Li Hung-chang, Li Peng-heng, Liu Kungyi and Chang Chih-tung. That all the Viceroy and Governors, taking the strength and position of China into consideration, do not like to enter on war, is a wise course for the protection of the country, but by now the Boxers who arose only a few months ago have spread all over the city of Peking, numbering one hundred and more thousands. The common people, the soldiers as well as the attendants in the houses of Princes and Dukes, are swelling their members and uttering the same threats of butchering their enemies, the foreign missionaries. They can never be made to stand together with the foreigners. If we are going to suppress them the calamity will be upon us at once and very many lives will be lost. We therefore try to make the best of a bad case and to solve the difficulty gradually. The telegraphic memorials speak of our trusting the magic of the boxers to protect the country; but you must understand that the Throne, being hard pressed, cannot help letting the Boxers alone. If you Viceroy and Governors know that the present crisis is so severe you will feel no rest in your sleep and be unhappy at your dinners. You must therefore make careful enquiries about the particulars of the position, and use no more such language in your memorials. The present position is destined by Heaven in conjunction with the feeling of the people, so that we cannot help going to war. You Viceroy and Governors of different provinces should not hesitate to organise soldiers and raise war funds to protect our boundaries. The viceroys and governors are responsible for any loss of land. This is to notify all the Viceroy, Governors and Tartar Generals.

LOCAL DEFENCE.—PROPOSED GERMAN CORPS ABANDONED.

On the 2nd inst. we wrote:—The "Deutsche Compagnie" is commanded by Mr. Armin Haupt, head of Melchers and Co. He was commander of the German Corps at Shanghai, previous to his departure from that place. The lieutenants are Messrs. J. Wacker, of Carlwits and Co., and A. Muller, of Bornemann and Co. The non-coms. are Messrs. A. Bune, of the East Asiatic Trading Co., A. Berg, of Siamssen and Co., K. Wibel, of Meyerink and Co., and W. Stang, of Melchers and Co. All officers and non-coms. have been in the German Army. They were elected on Saturday last. The first drill took place last night at the Club Germania. Arms and a nominal supply of ammunition will be supplied by the police. In case the force have to be called out, the members will be sworn in as special constables, as it would require a special ordinance to allow them to enlist as volunteers, the latter force being only open to the British. Since then, however, the gentlemen who had given in their names as members of the German Volunteer Corps, to be utilised as special constables, have been informed on behalf of His Excellency the Governor that at present the state of affairs did not warrant the calling out of special constables, but that His Excellency would be glad to avail himself of their services if required. Consequently, for the time being at any rate, the corps has been disbanded.

THE NEW TERRITORY BOUNDARY.

The staffs at the police stations near the boundary of the New Territory are being still further strengthened by the addition of European and Indian constables. The lawless characters in the neighbourhood of Sam Chun are getting more and more threatening.

THE RETURN OF THE "HINSANG" TO HONGKONG.

The *Hinsang* returned from Taku on the 1st inst., bringing with her from Chefoo a missionary lady named Mrs. Brown and her children (from Peking) and some 15 or 16 Hongkong children who were at school at Chefoo.

Our readers will remember that the *Hinsang*, which had been chartered by the military authorities, left Hongkong on the 15th ult. with 500 troops, etc., for Taku, Major St. John being in charge. When nearing Amoy she encountered a heavy sea, and it was deemed advisable to put in at Amoy. She remained here from four o'clock in the morning and left in the evening. The weather was no better when she resumed her voyage, but in view of the urgent nature of her errand it was decided to get on. She went through the Haitan Straits, and lay to for a short time between the islands. A good deal of fog was encountered in the gulf of Pechili, and a heavy mantle overspread the spot where the U. S. S. *Oregon* came to grief.

On the 22nd June, she cast anchor about six miles from the anchorage of Taku. On the 23rd and 24th the troops, etc., were taken on board a smaller steamer—the *Shenhing* (owned by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire) and by her landed at Taku. The *Hinsang* left Taku on the 24th, and the following day (Monday) put in at Chefoo, taking on board the refugees mentioned above on the Tuesday. During the night it was discovered that the Chinese at Chefoo had mounted two guns and made extensive entrenchments. The *Hinsang* called at Weihai-wei and then came straight on to Hongkong, experiencing very dirty weather. She will probably go north again on Wednesday with ammunition and stores.

She passed men-of-war all along from Taku to Chefoo, and the officers on board were struck by the fine appearance presented by the Russians. Some of the British ships appear to have been practically denuded of men in order to swell Admiral Seymour's relief column.

THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE CHINA SQUADRON.

The two boats *Bramble* and *Britomart*, which have been commissioned for service on the China Station, are First Class gunboats, with indicated horse-power of 1,300 forced draught. Their speed is 13.5 knots, forced draught, and 12.5, natural draught. They draw 8 ft., and their displacement is 700 tons. The armament is two 4 in. quickfiring and four 12-pounder quick-firers.

GERMAN LOSSES WITH SEYMOUR'S COLUMN.

The Acting German Consul at Shanghai gives the following casualties of the Germans with the force under Admiral Seymour:—Captain-Lieutenant Buchholz (1st. officer of H.I.M.S. *Kaiserin Augusta*) and 10 men killed; 4 officers and 3 men seriously wounded. Captain von Usedom (Commander of H.I.M.S. *Hertha*) and 40 men slightly wounded. Capt. Lans of the *Ilitis*, wounded at the capture of the Taku Forts, was, according to an Extra of *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd* on the 30th ult., still living and doing well. The German Emperor has decorated him with the Order for Merit.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

The London *Daily Mail* from its Absent-Minded Beggar Fund has remitted by wire the sum of £200 to be used in the purchase of comforts for the sick and wounded, which are to be sent to the chartered hospital ship, *Sheng-king*, at Taku, and the *Daily Mail* asks to know by wire what further hospital relief is required.

THE DEFENCE OF SHANGHAI.

The N.-C. *Daily News* gives an account of the Volunteer parade on the Shanghai polo ground on the evening of the 28th ult. Our contemporary says:—"The muster was first-rate, fully 500 men turning out, and if there were places in the ranks where the costume was any but uniform, the man and the gun were there, and that's the main thing. The Light Horse with lances and pennons looked very well,

and their practice was highly commendable. All units, consisting of artillery, A. and B. Co's, the Reserve Co. and the Naval Co. with two Nordenfeldts, together with the Customs Co., about 90 strong, the German Co. and the Ambulance corps, mustered on the ground at 5.45, and were given a good useful hour's drill in the presence of a very large gathering of spectators, many of whom were ladies. The troops in the march past had loud applause from the lookers on. Major Brodie A. Clarke acted as commanding officer, and there was a full attendance of officers, including three mounted 'irregulars.' The march back to the Bund began shortly before 7 p.m. and, passing the Central Hotel, our volunteers had a compliment which they highly appreciated. It was general leave night for the British fleet, and a strong party of bluejackets and marines, on the steps, cheered the volunteers with all the lustiness that characterises British sailors. The 'dismiss' took place on the Bund opposite the Custom House."

Since the recent formation of an American company of volunteers, the Portuguese and Japanese of Shanghai have raised companies. The Portuguese movement was heartily entered into and Senior Consul Valdez has promised the recruits every support. It is estimated that the Company will be 125 strong. The Japanese Company will probably muster 200 strong, under Captain Inamura. The companies will be armed by the Municipal Council, but it is understood that the Japanese dispatch vessel *Yayeyama* brought down a supply of arms also, for use if needed.

There is now almost a formidable array of ordnance at the British Consulate, where the naval machine guns, a 3lb. Hotchkiss (quick-firer), and other pieces are parked. The Nordenfeldts are still kept at the Central Police Station.

ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING IN COREA.

The anti-foreign feeling has apparently spread to Corea. The special correspondent at Seoul of the *Tokyo Nichi Nichi* telegraphed on the 24th inst. that the inhabitants of Chung-chong-do, Chulla-do and the northern part of Kyung-chong-do have presented an application to the Imperial Household asking for permission to exterminate the Christians in their provinces. The ringleaders in the application have been arrested. The gist of the application was that the foreign missionaries living ten Korean li outside the foreign settlements should be ordered to retire within the Treaty limits, according to the Treaty provisions. Apparently the memorialists were supported by a section of the Government officials, but great reticence is maintained regarding the whole matter.

THE DISASTER IN DES VŒUX ROAD.

In our issue of the 4th inst. we briefly stated that the previous evening a couple of houses had collapsed and one caught fire. Further particulars are now to hand.

At about nine o'clock a report was made at No. 7 Police Station, West Point, by Indian Constable 740 that the house No 239, Des Vœux Road, had collapsed and another caught fire. Inspector Baker and a body of firemen, were soon on the scene with a despatch box. They found that the wall dividing 239 from 240 had given way and caused 239 to collapse and a portion of 240, the disaster being due to the weight of 6,000 piculs of rice stored against the wall. The shop 240 contained a large quantity of matting, and this had been set on fire through the overturning of a lamp.

When the firemen arrived they found a number of Europeans busily engaged in extinguishing the flames. There was only one man on the premises at 239 when the accident took place, and he escaped, but the police learned that of the three men known to be in 240 only one was seen to get away, and accordingly the firemen set to work to find the other two. Fireman McVickers soon came across a *foki* buried under the debris near the door. He extricated him, and found that he was not much worse for his experience. This man stated that the accountant was in the first floor in a cubicle at the back of the premises, and that when he last saw him he was seated at a table writing by the light of a lamp. By

this time the fire had got such a hold that there was not the slightest chance of saving the accountant. When the flames had been got under somewhat the charred body of the accountant was found in a standing position, with one arm over a rail. Close beside him was what had apparently been an account book, so that the police at once concluded that the fire had been caused by the upsetting of the lamp by which the man had been writing.

It was close on midnight before the police took their leave. Comparatively little damage was done to the rice—only about \$200 worth being destroyed, but the contents of the mat-shop were almost completely demolished.

A gentleman who was one of the earliest arrivals on the scene and who took a prominent part in the rescue work—indeed it was owing to the labours of himself and his friends that the life of one unfortunate Chinaman was saved—has kindly given us an account of what he saw. When he arrived with three companions, at about 9 o'clock, the fire had already taken hold of the ruins, and quite a crowd of Chinese was watching. A Chinaman was found crushed between some scaffolding, his body being free but his arm under quite half a ton of wood. The four new arrivals and a Sikh watchman at once set to work to get him out. The scaffolding was too heavy to be lifted without mechanical assistance, so the side-arm of a lukong on the spot was borrowed, and an attempt made to cut away the wood, without success. Next the rescuers tried to lever it up, but again failed. At this point two of the Messrs. Musso arrived with a hose from the neighbouring Gas Works, and soon this was playing on the fire, which had become threatening. The Sikh managed to get hold of a saw and with this a fresh attack was made on the woodwork imprisoning the Chinaman. After it had been sawn half through the job was completed with a lever, and the Chinaman was set free, an Inspector arriving just as the operation was completed. By this time the first fireman arrived—it was about 9.20—but there was no hose with him. The Chinaman who had so narrow an escape said that he thought that there were at least two of his compatriots among the ruins, but he did not know where they might be. A search for them would have commenced, but at this point more firemen arrived, and the rescuers were unceremoniously told to move out of the way. This seemed to them rather ungrateful, as they had worked so hard and reduced themselves to a sad plight through the combined action of the fire and the water with which they were utterly drenched. However, as they felt "not fit to be seen" and there was so little official appreciation of their work, they had nothing to do but to retire. The younger of the Messrs. Musso (whose assistance alone enabled the others to set the prisoner free, as otherwise the fire must have reached him before he was got out) lost a couple of rings, which were torn off his finger by the force of the water; and our informant had his glasses smashed.

SAD ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR.

A sad accident took place to a picnic party at Capsmoon on the afternoon of the 1st inst. Mr. H. E. Mackenzie, of the East Point Sugar Works, losing his right hand. Mr. Mackenzie and four or five others were in a boat undressed, preparatory to having a swim. Mr. Mackenzie had a dynamite cartridge in his hand, and he proposed throwing it into the water so that he and his friends could dive after the fish stunned thereby. He accordingly lit the fuse, and the cartridge exploding prematurely blew off his right hand and slightly injured two or three other men in the boat. The arm was at once bound up, and Mr. Mackenzie was taken to the Hospital, where the hand was amputated above the wrist. We are pleased to say that he is doing well. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Mackenzie on account of the calamity which has befallen him.

The Chinaman who escaped from the prisoners' detaining room at the Magistracy has been re-arrested and re-sentenced to six months' imprisonment. A Chinese detective (No. 129) caught him as he was stepping into a launch for Kong Mun.

SERIOUS LANDSLIP.

SIX LIVES LOST.

As the result of the recent heavy rains several land-slips have taken place in different parts of the colony, but fortunately in the majority of cases they were not attended by any serious consequences.

On the 2nd inst., however, shortly before five o'clock, an embankment behind some houses in New Street near the Tung Wa Hospital, gave way and knocked down the back walls of houses Nos. 4, 6, 8, and 10 New Street, no less than seven people being buried among the debris. Nos. 6 and 8 seemed to have suffered most damage. Acting Deputy Superintendent McKie and a party of police were soon on the scene clearing the earth away. Their task was by no means an easy one and was not free from danger, as the earth from the embankment continued to come down while they were engaged in searching for those who had been buried.

They ultimately rescued a woman from No. 6. One of her legs was broken, and she was sent to the Hospital. At No. 8 three dead bodies were recovered later on—two boys (one eight and the other nine) and a young man 20 years of age. Two men and a woman were in the same house, and their bodies were recovered later on.

THE POPULATION OF SHANGHAI.

The recently completed census of foreign residents in Shanghai (exclusive of those living in the French Settlement), gives the following figures, with which may be compared those for 1895:—

	1900.	1895.
British	2,692	1,936
Portuguese	978	731
Japanese	736	250
American	562	328
German	525	314
Indian	296	119
French	176	138
Manila and Malay	157	32
Spanish	111	154
Austrian and Hungarian	83	39
Danish	76	86
Swedish	63	46
Italian	60	83
Russian	47	28
Norwegian	45	35
Turkish	41	32
Dutch	40	15
Swiss	37	16
Belgian	22	21
Various	28	21

Total 6,774 4,424

The preponderance of British subjects in Shanghai remains, therefore, as great as ever it was. In 1870 there were 894 British subjects, 255 Americans, 138 Germans, 46 Spaniards, and 16 French, no other nationality running into double figures.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 3rd July.

A NEW GOVERNOR.

The recently appointed Governor of this Colony, Senhor Alvaro Ferreira, having requested the Portuguese Government to exonerate him from the post, the home authorities telegraphed to-day announcing the re-appointment of Senhor Horta e Costa, ex-Governor of the Colony. He is, it is announced, leaving Lisbon within three days' time. With His Excellency are coming out the troops which are being sent to increase the garrison of the Colony.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 3rd July.

A telegram has been received announcing the re-appointment of Senhor José M. Horta e Costa as Governor of Macao. Senhor Horta e Costa leaves for his post to-day, and is due in Macao about the beginning of August. Macao is much to be congratulated on Senhor Horta e Costa's return as Governor, not only for what he has previously done on behalf of the Colony, both as *Deputado* and Governor, but also for being the right man in the right

place; besides he was very much liked by the inhabitants of Macao.

Senhor Lello, who is now administering the Government, will resume his post as Colonial Secretary General on the arrival of Senhor Horta e Costa.

The Lisbon Government has finally done justice to Macao by having these two worthy officials replaced into their former posts, especially at the present crisis, when an energetic Governor and Secretary are greatly wanted.

I hear that Senhor Horta e Costa is vested with full power to suppress the irregularities and abuses which are said to prevail in some particular Departments, and that very likely the first one to be dealt with will be the "Fazenda."

Great precautions are being taken in Macao for any sudden outbreak against the inhabitants by the Chinese. At present everything is quiet.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, 30th June 1900.

THE VICEROYAL REPLY TO CANTON.

H. E. the Viceroy Li Hung-Chang says in his reply to the petitions of the Directors of different charitable institutions and the various Committees, in which they urged him to remain in Canton in view of the present difficulties in the North, that as a minister he is bound to protect the dominions of his sovereign under any circumstances whatever, and to act for the good of the people. As they are afraid that the numbers of soldiers in Canton are not enough for its protection, he has doubled the force by sending for the troops of General Wong Kum Fuk, of Son-yung and On-yung, to come back quickly for the protection of the people. In case he should have to leave he will do his best for their welfare. He has given orders to the troops to keep strict watch everywhere, and as to Shameen he has also doubled the force for its protection, so as to ensure amity and friendship between China and foreign nations. Of late he has been receiving telegrams every day about the fight between the foreign soldiers and the Boxers, which great terrified the capital and the Imperial Palace. Being at so great a distance, he wishes from the depth of his heart that he could fly thither for the deliverance of the Imperial Government; but he can not. His heart, he continues, is burning with so strong a desire that he has no time to eat or sleep. Knowing, as he does, the difficulty of the journey and the stretches of mountains and water between, and aware that by going alone so great a distance he cannot by himself be of help to his country; still when he thinks that his Imperial Majesty is in imminent danger he must perforce proceed with all possible speed, to show even a little spark of loyal feeling. Though a poor old man of the age of 80, he does not mind any trouble or risk if he can stand by his country and face the danger.

PANIC AND PRECAUTIONS IN SHAMEEN.

In consequence of the rumours and placards of the last few days there has been a continuous exodus of Chinese with their families to Hongkong and Macao. A great number of ladies and children from Shameen have left, and the missionary ladies too. On an occasion like this people are apt to make a very great fuss. It is not likely that the rebels, or whoever they are, will come to Shameen so suddenly. They will have to make preparations; for instance, they will have to call a meeting to decide upon the plan of attack, to make red flags and red sashes as insignia of rebellion, to select a place of rendezvous, to prepare provisions, arms and ammunition, and find a chief to direct the attack; they will have to terrorise the working classes and the market-people, and compel them to "strike," so that they may join them; and then by way of preliminary they will perhaps insult and provoke Europeans and give trouble to the native Christians, &c. However, as H. E. Li-Hung-Chang cannot decide yet whether he will go north until the receipt of a definite answer to his telegram, and as Shameen is quite open and unprotected, it would be well for the authorities amongst other preparations to place a Gatling gun facing the entrance to each of the bridges, and have a dozen or two marines or soldiers patrolling night and day on the Bund.

Then Shameen will be one of the safest places. A corps of volunteers formed from the residents of Shameen does not answer the purpose, for most of them are business men and have to attend to their duties. Shameen can stand out for one day only as regards provisions, for we are dependent upon the Chinese for every necessary. Chinese police and soldiers are not trustworthy, and in case of trouble they will run away and be the first to turn their weapons against foreigners. It is a rule with the Chinese officials, which they deem the best policy, that whenever a rumour of rising is about, some criminals must be brought from goal and beheaded, to strike terror into the hearts of all ruffians. On the 26th ult. 68 pirates, rebels, and thieves were executed, some by beheading and others by being strangled in the new wooden cages. Amongst them was one who incited the mob on Sunday, the 24th, to attack Shameen.

GENERAL CALM—NATIVES COWED.

Canton, 3rd July.

It is reported that the Viceroys and Governors of all the provinces have now come to an understanding with the foreign Consuls of all nationalities that they will keep their provinces quiet; this does not apply, of course, to Chihli and Shantung.

Upon the receipt of the official confirmation of the death of the German Minister at Peking the flags of all the Consulates in Shameen were flying half-mast high.

The tide of rumours has now taken quite a turn; instead of there being a fear of Chinese attacking Shameen, the Chinese are in the utmost terror of foreigners attacking Canton. They say the foreigners have brought up a few gunboats to attack Canton, that they have a lot of lepers on board, and that they want to catch the women and children to put under the foundations for the Canton railway.

WATCHING FOR SUN YET-SEN.

The *Chun Ngai San Po* has received information that H. E. Tak Shou, the governor, has received a telegram from the Chinese minister in Japan, announcing that Sun-yet-Sen has left Yokohama for Hongkong and asking him to devise plans for his arrest. The Governor has accordingly ordered the commander of the Kwang Hip garrisons to keep a strict watch for him.

SWATOW.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 27th June.

THE DEFENCE OF THE PORT.

For some time past grave rumours have been circulating as to trouble brewing in the country round about Swatow. Evidence of the work of numerous secret societies has not been wanting, and in the opinion of the best informed serious disturbances are likely to occur at any time. I have it on good authority that one of the Consuls was officially warned by the chief magistrate of this district to be prepared for any emergency. The upshot of this was a meeting convened by the senior Consul—Mr. Streich of the German Consulate—to discuss the present position. About 60 persons attended—thoroughly representative of the various interests. Mr. Streich in the chair explained the objects of the meeting, incidentally mentioning that he personally thought it unnecessary that any steps should be taken for mutual defence. The meeting, however, thought otherwise. After some discussion in which perhaps the best informed man in the room, H.B.M.'s Consul Mr. Hirst, was significantly silent, a committee was formed, consisting of Messrs. Hirst, H.B.M. Consul; Streich, German Consul; Richardson, Bradley & Co.; Andrew, Acting Commissioner of Customs; and Haeslop, Lauts, Haeslop & Co. They were asked to take evidence and formulate a scheme and report to a future general meeting.

The above shows that the Consuls and heads of the larger business houses are keenly alive to the fact that prompt measures must be taken to prepare for an uprising. The business interests of Swatow—the third largest shipping port in China—are at the mercy of the first gang of marauders that likes to come along. This should not be. Nothing the European residents could do could be effective, and it is imperative that a

gunboat should be stationed at Swatow until the country quiets down. Proper representations will no doubt be put before the authorities in Hongkong, who, I trust, will see their way to take action before it is too late.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MANILA, 29th June, 1900.

THE FATE OF THE PEACE PROPOSALS— PATERNO AGAIN ARRESTED AND THE JUNTA SUPPRESSED.

The proposals of the Manila Junta, under the leadership of Pedro Paterno and Felipe Buenacampo have excited general interest throughout the country. A week ago it was thought that the deliberations of this body would produce the desired results. There was an air of sincerity about the whole thing, and accordingly the thirty odd political and military prisoners were given temporary liberty from the Anda jail and allowed to attend the conference. It was without doubt one of the most representative Filipino gatherings that could be obtained. There were among the members many of the best statesmen and fighters that the insurgents can claim. After three hours of deliberation, not altogether devoid of excitable scenes and hot-headed language, eight general proposals were finally agreed upon. In a measure they were "railroaded" or forced through the meeting by the energetic leaders, who stated indirectly but nevertheless forcibly that Aguinaldo would very likely accept the decisions of the Junta.

Then the proposals were presented to General McArthur, who acted leniently and even went as far as to indicate where matters could be improved. From the very start it was evident that the general could not seriously entertain the Filipino programme. It purported to be an effort at a basis of peace, but it really was little more than an impudent address on the part of the leaders.

The Filipinos held several meetings and succeeded in entangling rather than adjusting matters. Paterno's actions were closely watched with the result that considerable suspicion came to surround him. The affair was largely discussed by Manila at large, and the Junta's work was not approved. Finally a grand meeting was announced for this coming Sunday, in which another effort would be made to arrive at some general understanding. Paterno issued a programme of the questions that would be considered. Both the tone of the announcement and the question involved are not in any way calculated to further the establishment of peace, and therefore the military authorities have forbidden the projected meeting, and Paterno has been re-imprisoned and has not even the liberty of certain hours during the day. His conduct is considered as violating the oath which he gave on being released some time ago. The man talks as though he has an army of one hundred thousand men at his back, and some of his actions are difficult for any sane person to understand.

Just what result his arrest will produce in the Junta is not known, and as the meeting has been suppressed, it is probable that the progress of the peace negotiations will be somewhat interrupted.

FILIPINOS DISAPPOINTED IN THE COMMISSION.

Many Filipinos have called on Judge Taft and the other members of the commission with all sorts of grievances—from the high price of meat and the sins of the friars to the antidi-luvian methods of the Custom House. There is no doubt about it, the Filipinos are disappointed in the commission. They seemed to have entertained the belief that the arrival of the commission would be accompanied by grand and sweeping reforms in every branch, civil and military. They wanted a proclamation and a thousand other things. Instead of these they find the commission outwardly inactive, spending their days in the Palace offices. And they are told that the new governing body will not assume authority until September at least. They fail to realize that the commissioners are studying and gradually becoming acquainted with the present state of affairs. They do not know that a tremendous amount of work is being accomplished in preparation for the future government.

Judge Taft himself admits that the situation, as he sees it, is quite different from the popular ideas in the States. But the Filipinos are impatient; they want action and change and plenty of it. They are tired of the military administration and so is nearly every one in Manila, and they long for civil rule; but they fail to see that the change in a great measure depends upon their own conduct.

TROOPS SAIL FOR CHINA.

On Wednesday the Ninth U.S. Infantry, over one thousand strong, sailed for Taku on the transport *Logan*. The men were in fine health and spirits and made a splendid appearance, as they have been fitted out with new equipments and clothes, from their rifles to their boots.

The *Brooklyn* left the same day with the *Princeton* following. All the ships will stop at Nagasaki to coal and then proceed to Taku.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE FRENCH AT CANTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, 29th June.

Sir.—I read in your issue of the 28th June the following under the heading of Canton:—"A French boat is said to be coming up, but we are not very anxious for her, as the French and the missionaries are more likely to raise trouble than anything else."

I shall be much obliged if you will be so good as to request the writer of this impertinent and incorrect statement to reveal his name, if he has the courage of his opinions. No gentleman can insist on maintaining his anonymity after allowing himself to make such statements publicly.—I am, &c.

A. G. DUFÊTRE.

Manager of Chauvin,
Chevalier & Co.

THE NORTHERN TROUBLES.

3rd July.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—With reference to your article of Saturday last regarding the northern troubles, there is one point which should not be forgotten, namely, that at the root of it all is the Missionary—as usual—who by exceeding his rights and privileges has long stirred up strife amongst the people. Let us not cloak this fact. It is not so much to religion or Christianity itself that the Chinese are opposed as to the assertion of undue power which missionaries claim over converts, to the detriment of their fellows and to the harmony of things in general. China has already three religions, and could, no doubt, comfortably absorb half-a-dozen more; and if missionaries would confine themselves wholly and solely to the simple teachings of their Master, without interference in law-cases, etc., there would probably be no trouble.—Yours, etc.,

EPOPTES.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES.

The following are the reports of the sub-committees of the Victoria Recreation Club for the year 1899.

BOAT-HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following is a list of boats at present the property of the Club:

	Condition.
5 New Four-Oar Boats	Good.
2 Tubs	New.
3 Randan Gigs	"
2 Dinghies	Good.
	Oars.
Four Oars	24 New
"	20 Fair.
Double Sculls	16
Single	2
Tub Oars	14

During the past year the Boat-House Sub-committee have noted with regret that the same interest in rowing as in former years has not been maintained.

The Annual Regatta was held on the 20th and 21st December, when the International

Challenge Cup was once again won by the representatives of Scotland, Portugal being the only other nationality represented. The number of members taking part in the Regatta was about the same as in 1898, but the rowing form generally displayed showed a very distinct falling off from that of previous years. We would again point out the great advantage all rowing men and especially beginners would gain if they would obtain the services of some of the more experienced oarsmen to coach them.

The matter of new pair oar and double sculling boats will engage the attention of the new committee.

E. D. Sanders, A. Denison, Geo. A. Caldwell, Boat-House Sub-committee.

BATH-HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Since presenting last year's report no improvements have been made in the old structure for fear that notice for immediate removal might be given by the Naval Yard Contractors at a moment's notice.

The Committee have hopes that a temporary site will be granted by the Colonial Government until arrangements can be made for new permanent premises.

The Aquatic Sports held on the 25th, 26th and 27th September last were carried out as usual in a most successful manner and in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Blake and Lady Blake, there being also a good attendance of ladies and gentlemen spectators.

Mr. A. A. Alves is to be congratulated for being the best all-round swimmer during the meeting. The water polo again proved a great success and the promoters of the Water Polo Association deserve great credit for arranging the competitions. Our thanks are due to Lady Blake for kindly presenting the prizes to successful competitors and to the donors and subscribers for their generous contributions.

M. A. A. Souza, T. H. Reid, T. Meek, Bath-House Sub-committee.

GYMNASIUM SUB-COMMITTEE.

No competitions were held in the Season 1899/1900. Classes have been fairly well attended.

The Athletic Sports were held on the 31st March, and we regret that the entries were smaller than, and competition did not come up to the standard of, former meetings. We tender our sincere thanks to the donors and subscribers for the generous way in which they recognised the meeting.

Frank Lammert, W. Armstrong, W. S. Bailey, Gymnasium Sub-committee.

BAR SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Bar Committee have much pleasure in presenting you with the Annual Report.

As will be noted from the annexed statement, the return exceeds that of previous years.

M. A. A. Souza, Thos. Meek, Bar Sub-committee.

Value of stock 31st December, 1898	\$ 464.37
Purchases to 31st December, 1899	10,468.77
Wages	1,041.60
Balance	1,719.91

\$13,714.05

Total value of chits to 31st December, 1899	\$13,446.82
Bad 1899	330.90

\$13,115.92

Bank interest	12.97
Stock to 31st December, 1899	602.53
Less damaged	17.37

\$35.16

\$13,714.05

The Death Returns for the Colony during May show that the European and Foreign Community lost 31 members in all, 29 from the Civil Population (estimated at 9,100), of whom 8 died of plague; and one each from the Army and Navy. Among the Chinese Community the deaths were 723, 290 being due to plague and 94 to chest-affections. No. 2 District lost 198, 57 through plague; while the Harbour, out of an estimated population of 24,550, lost 72 in all, half of these through plague. The Death-rate in the different Registration Districts during the month gives among others the following figures:—British and Foreign Community, Civil 38.2 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese Community, Victoria, Land 34.9 and Harbour 41.5; Chinese, Whole Colony, Land 34.8, Boat 35.6, Land and Boat, 34.9; British, Foreign, and Chinese, excluding Army and Navy, 35.1.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

KOWLOON DETACHMENT.

The fifth competition for the Gillies Cup took place on the Association Range, Gunner W. Stewart proving an easy winner with the net score of 102 points. The best scores were:—

	200	400	500	H'cap.	Total
Gunner Stewart	34	34	34	scratch	102
Gunner Lapsley	29	34	30	3	96
Bomb. Deas	28	20	26	15	89
Sergeant Rutter	29	29	22	3	83
Gunner Battey	33	25	19	scratch	77
Gunner Baldwin	29	30	18	—	77
Corporal White	25	25	19	5	74

"D." INFANTRY COMPANY.

The final shot for the Captain Forbes' Cup took place at the Kowloon Range on Saturday, June 30th, in very bad weather. The cup was won by Corporal Ritchie, the following scores being registered:—

Names.	200	500	600	H'cap.	Total
Corporal Ritchie	28	28	26	18	100
Private Watson	32	31	31	scratch	94
Private May	27	24	25	14	90
Pte. H. E. Mackenzie	25	27	24	14	90
Lieut. Skinner	22	23	23	11	79
Private Andrews	24	26	14	14	78
Private A. McKenzie	27	18	24	3	72
Captain Forbes	28	25	—	11	73

THE TRADE OF BANGKOK FOR 1899.

The Customs Returns for last year show the following figures compared with those for 1898:—

	1898	1899
Imports	\$27,361,913	\$26,316,301
Exports	\$6,430,651	\$33,659,888

Total \$63,792,564 \$59,976,189

Thus there is a falling off of \$1,045,612 in the imports, and of \$2,770,763 in the exports or a total of \$3,816,375. Still the total of close on \$60,000,000 compares very favourably with \$69,890,461 in 1897, \$51,407,240 in 1896, and \$44,665,111 in 1895.

AGUINALDO'S NEW PROCLAMATION.

The text of the following proclamation by the Filipino leader has been privately communicated to the *Singapore Free Press*, from whose columns we quote it:—

In accordance with the humanitarian principles followed by our Government and army, I make known to my beloved people that all those who have no official duties to discharge may, as far as we are concerned, retire into private life to attend to their own business at their own homes, even in cases where their towns are occupied by the enemy. I only ask ask them to observe strict neutrality, and in case the "Imperialists" attempt to enlist their aid either by threats or by other means, I leave it to the calm judgment of the people to adopt whatever line of action is best, because I am thoroughly satisfied that they are all perfectly loyal.

Our Government does not now require any very large body of troops, but only sufficient to maintain a force in the field and perform other duties. You may, moreover, rest satisfied in the knowledge that our army which has suffered so much will not cease its efforts as long as there are any strangers in the land trying to enslave the Philippine people. The Philippine army would a thousand times rather die in defence of justice than submit; and, in truth, what is life worth, without honour, and in slavery? Pitiful it would be, after more than three centuries with our ancient mother Spain, which gave us our civilization, to let ourselves fall under the domination of strangers who wish to force upon us new manners and customs, as for example their language, which we would have to become children again to learn. Keep in mind the saying—"Ang isip na dilat ay mahirap nang mabulag." "The fruits of civilization enter into the soul never to be displaced."

Does the invader say that we must be governed according to the laws taken over from Spain? I think I am not wrong in believing that we

know a little more about that than the newly arrived foreigners. A people that has known enough to recover its independence knows enough to use it.

On the other hand, this war, which we are waging against the Imperialists, is beneficial to us inasmuch as it enlightens our people and brings out all their best points; and, the more lives we lose of our beloved brethren in arms, the stronger becomes our feeling of patriotism and solidarity.

But we must not forget that, having once become independent, we must take care not to promise more than we can perform, as did the Americans on arrival here, saying they came to benefit and help the oppressed people, and to make them free and independent, and to build up for us a government of our own, with a distinctive national flag of our own, a binding promise on their own conscience and in the sight of all the great nations.

And I call the civilized world to witness that the Philippine people and army have not forgotten nor broken the convention of alliance and friendship which they made with the first representative of the United States that came here, namely, Admiral Dewey, through the medium of the American consuls in Hongkong and Singapore. And so strongly is the heart of my people animated by that famous convention, that, on seeing the American soldiers who had fallen into our hands, the people and army of the Philippines cried out with one voice to liberate them immediately, saying:

"We don't want and we won't have war against the United States."

"The sons of that mighty nation are our friends and brothers."

"We only defend our recovered independence against the Imperialists and asked for recognition."

"We therefore give back to the United States her sons that have fallen into our hands, because our brothers and friends cannot be our prisoners."

In face of this unanimous petition, which agrees with my own feelings, I set the prisoners at liberty, authorizing the Secretary of War to return them to General Otis.

In America, there is a great party that insists on the U. S. Government recognizing Filipino independence. They will compel their country to fulfil the promises made to us in all solemnity and faith, although not put into writing. For this reason we must show our gratitude and maintain our position more resolutely than ever. We therefore pray to God on high that the great Democratic party of the United States will win the next election, and that Imperialism will fail in its mad attempts to subjugate us by force of arms.

We may base our hopes on the right feeling of the American people. There are, moreover, some Americans here in the Philippines who have joined our side, because they disapprove of the war which Mr. Atkinson calls criminal aggression, and these Americans when offered the chance to return to their own camp, have declined.

Oh, my beloved compatriots, turn your eyes on the loveliness of our virgin mother country, and in filial pity bring each of you a handful of ashes to scatter over her naked beauties, to hide them from view, lest they excite the passions of strangers, and cause her to be outraged.

In conclusion, I repeat to my compatriots that they should conceal the beauties of the Philippines and the riches of the country, in order that the grasping Imperialists should not cause us any more trouble, and we shall enjoy everlasting peace.

EMILIO AGUINALDO.

Fritz Max Ulbricht, the German who was arrested in Hongkong for embezzlement at Shanghai, has been brought before the German Consular Court at Shanghai and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. He has been sent home to undergo the term. The prisoner was charged with having embezzled \$2,600, the property of the German Club at Shanghai, and also with having embezzled \$700, the property of the Hongkew Coffee House proprietors. The prisoner made no defence, simply pleading guilty. When arrested in Hongkong, it will be remembered, the prisoner endeavoured to commit suicide by shooting himself.

AMERICAN LOSSES IN THE PHILIPPINE WAR.

A Washington telegram, dated the 2nd ult. reports:—Secretary Root to-day sent to the Senate, in response to the resolution of inquiry, an extended report on the number of soldiers who have been killed or have died of wounds in the Philippines. Secretary Root also gives the number of those who have gone insane and have committed suicide since 1895.

"Whereby it appears," he states, "that the number of insane cases and the number of suicides have not been increased by service in the Philippines, but remain substantially the same number per thousand as in the period of peace prior to the war with Spain."

The casualties in the Philippines from July 31st, 1898, to May 24th, 1900, according to the report, were:

Deaths—Regulars, 36 officers and 920 men; volunteers, 41 officers and 854 men.

Wounded—Regulars, 37 officers and 721 men; volunteers, 91 officers and 1,115 men.

The number of insane soldiers admitted to the hospital at Washington from the Philippines to May 24th, 1900, are: Regulars, 47; Volunteers, 16, of which 19 have been discharged as recovered and 41 remain; one discharged unimproved and one on a visit from a hospital.

The number of insane soldiers from the Philippines now in the United States hospital at San Francisco, to be sent to Washington, are: Regulars, 5; Volunteers, 4. Held at San Francisco, diagnosis not confirmed: Regulars, 6; Volunteers, 18.

HONGKONG.

While engaged in building operations on the 2nd inst. at the Naval Yard, a Chinese workman fell off a scaffolding on to his head. Death was instantaneous.

The Return of Visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 1st July shows that the former institution was visited by 343 non-Chinese and 123 Chinese, the latter by 186 non-Chinese and 1,843 Chinese.

In the 48 hours preceding noon of the 2nd inst. there were reported 20 fresh cases of plague and 18 deaths in the colony. During last week there were 99 cases of plague (68 in Victoria) and 98 deaths. Of other diseases there was only a case of enteric fever, which ended fatally.

Mr. P. R. Crawford, of Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Co., Hongkong, who was on the *Empress of India* on his way to Japan, fell down the hold of the tender to the *Empress* on the 30th ult. at Shanghai, and was carried senseless to the Hospital. The latest account, we are pleased to say, are to the effect that he is doing well.

On the 2nd inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for competition at the office of the Public Works department two lots of Crown Land. The first lot—Lot No. 392, situate at Shaui-kan—was bought by a Chinaman for \$460, the upset being \$273. The second lot—Garden lot 9, situate in Peak Road—was sold to Mr. H. Humphreys for \$20 above the upset, the latter being \$131.

At the Harbour Office on the 2nd inst., before Mr. Basil Taylor, Stephen Smith and Henry Foster, firemen on board the steamer *Drumgarth*, were charged with disobeying the lawful commands of the master, Captain S. Fowler, and also with being drunk and incapable at Moji on the 22nd ult. At 5 p.m. on that date the defendants went after drink and assaulted the Chinese steward. They refused duty and had continued to refuse duty ever since. They were each sentenced to 14 days, hard labour (or until the ship sails) and forfeited 40 days' pay.

Among the craft lying alongside Praya East is a launch intended for Manila. On the 28th ult. a Chinese boy employed as coolie was on board when a Manila man, who is also engaged on the launch, came up to him and said he was not doing his work. The boy replied, "Neither are you," whereupon the Manila man struck him a violent blow in the stomach and the boy fell down unconscious. He was found in this condition by Inspector Ford, of No. 2 Police Station. The Inspector sent him to the Hospital, but he was able to give evidence at the Magistracy on the 29th ult., when his assailant was fined \$5, or 14 days.

A Chinaman who had had a drop too much lay down in a truck on the Praya on the night of the 1st inst. and went asleep. He was awakened by rolling off the truck and falling heavily to the ground. He sustained injuries which necessitated his being taken to the Hospital.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. a barber named Sui Hung was charged with cutting and wounding another barber named Chuk Tin. The complainant said he and the defendant were employed at a barber's shop at 20, Wing Kat street. Between seven and eight o'clock on the morning of the 25th ult. he was shaving a customer, and the defendant and another assistant were at leisure. A customer came in and he told the defendant to shave him. The defendant objected. They then argued, and the defendant struck him with a razor, inflicting a serious wound in the side. He had been in the Hospital ever since. Another assistant corroborated and the defendant, who had nothing to say, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

A case bearing some resemblance to the famous shell case was decided by Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 30th ult. A Chinaman employed in a ballast boat had been pounced upon by the police for removing sand from above high-water mark at the spot which goes by the extraordinary name of Gin Drinkers' Bay. The defendant pleaded that before the British took possession of the New Territory he and others used to remove sand from this place without let or hindrance. Mr. Hazeland remanded the case until the 7th inst. saying that he would like to see how the Chief Justice ruled in the shell case before he gave his decision. His Worship now found that the defendant had brought no proof of his assertion that he had been accustomed to remove the sand, and convicted him, but imposed no penalty.

Three men appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 29th ult. charged with being rogues and vagabonds. It appears that on the 28th ult. the keeper of the shop at 166, Queen's Road West, reported to the police that during the night his premises had been entered and some property stolen—clothing to the value of \$20, four opium pipes, and four water-smoking pipes; total value \$30. The thieves had evidently climbed down the spout and got into the premises from the verandah. Inspector Baker, of West Point, Police Station, put his men on the *qui vive* the same night, and three men who were pretending to sleep on a mat under a verandah in Des Voeux Road were arrested. They were found in possession of \$15 in 20-cents pieces and a silver watch and chain. On the 29th ult. one of the men was identified as having pawned the stolen pipes. He had been previously convicted. He was now sentenced to three months' hard labour as a rogue and vagabond and six months for receiving stolen goods. The other man was sentenced to three months as a rogue and vagabond.

No sooner had Inspector Baker turned in at No. 7 Police Station, after attending the fire in Des Voeux Road than he was roused up by Chinese Constable No. 244, who brought in a man whom he had arrested for burglary. The constable happened to be in U Lok Lane, off Third Street, when he saw a man coming out of a house there. When asked where he was going the man said he was bad in the stomach. He looked rather lumpy about that part of his anatomy and the Constable insisted on seeing what was the matter. He accordingly unbuttoned the man's coat, and found a pair of trousers concealed underneath. As he had apparently not come by the trousers honestly he was taken to No. 7 Police Station and locked up. About two hours afterwards a resident of U Lok Street made his appearance. He reported that his house had been broken into, the bolt on his door having been thrust back by a knife. Five pieces of clothing had been stolen, together with \$1.60 and a pawn ticket. He identified the trousers found on the man already arrested as his property and also some other clothing which he was wearing at the time. When the man was taken to the Central Police Station on the 4th inst. he was found to be Wong Kam, an old offender against whom there were already three convictions and who had been banished only last year. For breaking and entering the house the prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour and for disobeying the order of banishment 12 months' hard labour.

The 4th inst. being Independence Day, the war ships in the harbour were gaily decorated with bunting, and many of the American firms held open house.

A dinner was given on the night of the 3rd inst. on board H.M.S. *Tamar* to the Rev. F. Flynn, Chaplain to the Royal Naval Hospital, who is going home shortly.

Early on the 5th inst. Sergeant O'Sullivan found an European lying unconscious in Douglas Lane, behind 39, Queen's Road, he having evidently fallen from a gangway across the lane. The man was unconscious and had a couple of large wounds on the head. He was conveyed to the Hospital, where he died, before he had been able to say anything. Later on the body was identified as that of J. Logan, an engineer out of work, who lately resided at Edward's Boarding House. His brother identified the body.

As stated in our issue of the 5th inst. a party of Police went over to the New Territory on Wednesday and partially patrolled the Tung Hoi district during their visit to Sai Kong. They found the inhabitants peaceful but very anxious to devise means to protect themselves against the numerous bands of armed robbers who infest the district, by forming a district watchmans' corps, arrangements having been made for signalling from one village to another when help is needed. It was no doubt this which gave rise to the rumour that a disturbance was pending. The police, however, were satisfied that there was nothing of a seditious nature afloat.

At the Magistracy on the 5th inst. Mr. Hazeland opened the enquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Leung Tsat Tai, engineer on board the police launch No. 1, through being accidentally shot by P. C. Boulger (26) on the 20th June.—Dr. Bell said the deceased was admitted into the hospital at 6 a.m. on the 20th inst. suffering from a severe bullet wound in the abdomen. The man was alive then, but died at 12 o'clock the same day. He subsequently made a post mortem examination and found the bullet had entered the left groin, wounding the intestines in three places. The bullet came out in the front a little to the left of the line, causing a shock as the result of the wounds.—The fireman on No. 1 police launch said that at 4.45 a.m. on the 20th he was sitting on the top of the engine-room of the launch near to the deceased when he heard the report of a gun. At the same time the deceased cried out, and European constable 26 rushed forward and picked him up. Prior to the shot being fired the constable was sitting on the top of the cabin facing the bow.—The coxswain of No. 1 police launch said he remembered the morning of the 20th June. He heard the shot of a gun and on turning round he saw the deceased fall down on to the deck. Then he saw European constable 26 run towards the deceased and place his hand on his abdomen. Prior to the shot being fired Constable No. 26 was sitting on the top of the cabin behind witness. Constable Boulger said that on the 20th June he was in charge of No. 1 launch. At night he told one of the lukongs to load a Winchester rifle. In the morning at about a quarter to five he saw a lukong examining pistol pouch and revolver. The rifle was lying close to the revolver. During the time the lukong was doing this witness told him to take his blanket down into the cabin. When he was down in the cabin he looked over the rifle and saw the lever partly open. Thinking that the lukong had unloaded the rifle he drew it towards him to release the trigger. Before he released the trigger he opened the lever completely and glanced into the chamber. He did not see a cartridge, so he closed the lever and pulled the trigger. As soon as he pulled the trigger he heard a report and heard a man groan. He rushed aft and found that the deceased had been shot. He got his handkerchief and bound up the wound as best he could, and made all possible speed to the Police Pier. He ran up to the Station to see the Inspector. The Inspector was not in, but he saw the senior Sergeant and explained the matter to him. The Sergeant (Gourlay) returned with him to the launch and conveyed the deceased to the Hospital. The gun was lying flat on the top of the cabin when he released the trigger.—His Worship said he would read through the evidence and forward his report to the Attorney-General.

In the 24 hours preceding noon of the 4th inst. there were reported eight fresh cases of plague and nine deaths.

In the 24 hours preceding noon of the 5th inst. there were reported five fresh cases of plague and twelve deaths.

A chair coolie in the employ of Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C., was taken ill on the 5th inst. and subsequently died. He was afterwards found to have been suffering from plague.

We received on the 4th inst. from the U. S. Consulate General the following typhoon warning, dated Manila, 3rd July, 9 p.m.:—"Depression far out in the Pacific—probably east of Luzon."

Mr. G. H. Lammert offered for sale by auction on the 4th inst. Rural Building Lot No. 59 (situate at the Peak), together with the European dwelling house erected thereon and known as "Bahar Lodge." The area of the lot is 14,513 square feet. The property was withdrawn at \$17,600.

The body of a Chinese fisherman employed on trading junk No. 408 was taken to the Mortuary on the night of the 2nd inst. When the junk was at Tai Kok Tsui the deceased and two other men were working at a windlass raising the sail when a pulley broke. In consequence the windlass commenced to revolve at a terrific rate, and the deceased was crushed between the spokes and the deck, his throat and face being terribly torn. The two other men were also injured, but only slightly.

Another armed robbery has been reported to the police. Early on the 28th ult. four men with revolvers in their hands entered a house at La Ku Long, near Kowloon City. They quietened the inmates by threatening to shoot them if they made a noise, and ultimately decamped with property to the value of \$35. Subsequently the matter was reported to the police, and a few hours afterwards Sergeant Macdonald, of the Yau-mati Police Station, and a Chinese detective arrested two men on Kowloon Road on suspicion. One of the men has been identified as one of the robbers. None of the stolen property was found in their possession. On the 29th ult. Mr. Hazeland adjourned the case for a week.

The Eurasian boy John Wylie, who was before the Magistrate the other week for obtaining money by false pretences, has again got into the hands of the police. On the 28th ult. he went into a house at Wanchai and induced the occupants to give him \$2 by saying that he was in the employ of the Water Department. On leaving this house he went into the next. This aroused the suspicions of the other people who endeavoured to get hold of him. The boy, however, ran away and darted into No. 2 Police Station, where he was detained. It seems that a couple of days ago authority was received from the Government to send the boy to St. Joseph's College, as all arrangements had been made for his reception there, but when he was searched for in his usual haunts at West Point he could not be found. It turns out that he has been staying at Wanchai for several days, and his story is that the man with whom he was living forced him to go out to get money yesterday. Mr. Hazeland ordered the boy to be handed over to the police so that he might be put into St. Joseph's College.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	5,539,858	5,881,994
Kobe	6,192,96	501,527
	6,259,154	6,383,521

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1899-1900	1898-99.
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	9,595,807	4,832,251

SILK.

CANTON, 22nd June.—Silk.—Treaties.—No settlements are reported for Europe, but there is still a fair demand for Bombay. Re-reels.—A few lots of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Grant Re-reels are said to have been settled at \$660, \$645 and \$630. Dealers are now asking \$40 per picul more, but

so far no business has transpired. Filatures.—Owing to the firmer rates asked and obtained for coarse sizes, prices have hardened for all descriptions. Buyers for Native Pongee manufacture were obliged to pay the rates asked in order to put in hand forward contracts. An advance of \$20 to \$30 per picul was thus established all round, there being little offering, and most of the dealers keeping back supplies. From prices paid we quote: \$785 for Kwong Pou Kee 9/11, \$780 to \$775 for Miu King Lun and Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$770 for Cheong Kee 9/11, \$760 for Victoria 9/11, and Kwong Wo Hang 11/13, \$740 to \$730 for Chung Sun Hang, Yik Kee and Cheong Kee 10/12, \$720 for Wong Yuk Kee 10/12, \$715 to \$710 for Kwong Ho 13/15, \$720 to \$710 for U Hau Cheong 20/24 and 24/28, \$700 for Sui Lun Hing 16/20, \$660 average for Yee Wo Lun 11/13 and 13/15. Short-reels.—A fair business has been done at hardening prices. From settlements reported we quote: \$780 to \$770 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16, \$760 for Kwong Wo Hang, \$730 for Yu King Lun and Kwong Wo Ching 14/16, \$720 for Tai King Lun and Yik Kee 14/16 S. R., \$710 for Man Po Lun 14/16. Waste.—Quiet, prices firm. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 1/11½, and Fcs. 2.50½ per Dollar:—

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—Prices are further advancing, and the market is good. Quotations for Formosa are:—\$92.75 to \$93.00; sales 350 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 6th June.—A further advance in prices is reported, the market being brisk. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$7.80 to \$7.85	pcul.
do. " 2, White.....	7.17 to 7.22	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.35 to 5.40	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.15 to 5.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.85 to 7.90	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.25 to 7.30	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.20 to 5.25	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.10 to 5.15	"
Poochow Sugar Candy	11.74 to 11.78	"
Shekloong "	10.35 to 10.40	"

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—Malwa.—The market remained dull and a small business has transpired on easier terms, 2 years at 890/940.

Bengal.—Owing to the stringency in the money market and the general want of confidence, our market on the whole has ruled dull, and we close with a weak market at \$955 for both New Patna and Benares, and \$1,045 for Old Patna.

Persian.—Best quality is quoted at \$880/900.

STOCK.

Patna.....	1,303
Benares	378
Malwa	661
Persian.....	2,230½

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
July 1	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40
July 2	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40
July 3	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40
July 4	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40
July 5	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40
July 6	997½	1,085	997½	1,045	880	910/40

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—Very small sales at lower rates, closing dull and weak. Stock, about 4,000 bales.

Bombay,	20.00 to 22.00	picul.
Kurrachee,	— to —	"
Bengal (New), Rangoon, {	21.00 to 23.75	"
and Dacca,		
Shanghai and Japanese,	25.00 to 26.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo,	25.00 to 26.00	"
Madras (Best),	— to —	"
Sales: about 400 bales.		

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 6th July.—The same utter stagnation prevails as last reported, there being no buyers in the market, while in the item of deliveries a heavy falling off is noticeable. The new business done last fortnight comprises a few forced sales, but the prices realised cannot be accepted as a fair indication of the market, and towards the close quotations have become purely nominal.

The remoteness of the situation and the strong hand of a vigorous and able Viceroy have in a measure saved the Southern Provinces from the consequences of the political disturbances in Peking, and if this state of things continue, dealers lead us to expect a return of the demand after the turn of the month, but predict a lower range of values. It is reported that the country is entirely bare of stocks, and when buying does commence, it will be sudden, excited, and of short duration. The market closes quiet, but we believe bottom has been reached and an under current of strength is apparent which is giving holders some encouragement.

Local Manufacture.—In sympathy with imported spinings these threads continue very quiet.

Japanese Yarn.—Some forced sales of about 300 bales Settsu No. 20s. at from \$93 were effected during the earlier portion of the interval, but the decliner seems to have been subsequently arrested by favourable telegraphic advices from Japan, and the market closed firm.

Raw Cotton.—Indian cotton has suffered during the fortnight, and offers for Bengal staple have been lower. The total business reported, consists of only 120 bales, say 100 bales superfine machine-ginned at \$23½, and 20 bales middling Bombays at \$20½, leaving an estimated unsold stock of about 3,500 bales on the market. Nothing has been done in other descriptions. Quotations are:—Bengal \$18 to \$23, Rangoon \$17 to \$22, and China \$25 to \$26.

Exchange on India steadily advanced and touched Rs. 150 for T/T, but after slight fluctuations closes to-day at Rs. 149 for T/T and Rs. 149½ for Post. On Shanghai 70½ nominal.

For the two weeks ending 1st instant the undernoted business in Indian, Japanese and Local spinings is reported from Shanghai, the proximity of the markets to the seat of the disturbance almost stopping trade, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 169 bales, comprising 483 bales No. 16s. and 361 bales No. 10s., prices showing a decline of 5 to 6 Tls. and market closing very weak. Estimated unsold stock about 57,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales about 3,000 bales chiefly by speculators on the basis of Tls. 68 to 62 for No. 16s., and Tls. 70 to 64 for No. 20s., prices showing a decline of 6 Tls. and market closing very weak and declining. Estimated unsold stock about 18,000 bales. Evidently the trade has been passing through a serious crisis and the Cotton Yarn industry of Japan is receiving its death blow.

Local.—Business has been confined to sales of about 600 bales No. 14s. (unpacked bales) at from Tls. 69 to 70; resales of bundles having being effected at from Tls. 63 to 68 for No. 12s., Tls. 64 to 70 for No. 14s., and Tls. 66 to 70 for No. 16s., market closing weak.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—The weakness continues, and prices are consequently declining. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to 2.85
" Round, Good quality	3.03 to 3.08
" Long	3.24 to 3.27
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.95 to 3.00
" Garden, " No. 1	3.28 to 3.33
" White	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.22 to 4.27

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—50 bales No. 8 at \$90, 850 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$93, 600 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$90, 400 bales No. 16 at \$88 to \$98, 1,400 bales No. 20 at \$85 to \$100. METALS.—Quicksilver.—100 flasks at \$168.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$74.00 to \$ 99.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32.....	129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42,	147.00 to 154.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.....	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.....	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.....	2.75 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.70 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.....	2.55 to 2.75
58 to 60 ".....	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 ".....	4.00 to 4.75
Fine	5.00 to 7.75
Book-folds.....	4.35 to 6.25
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.75 to 1.50

T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.....	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ")	2.35 to 2.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.70 to 3.40
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.....	4.10 to 7.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.....	1.70 to 7.00
Brocades—Dyed	4.20 to 5.20
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.26 to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.23 to 0.28

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.90 to 1.70
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.55 to 1.75
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.70 to 10.80
Assorted	6.80 to 10.40
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 21.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted.....	11.50 to 22.00

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00 |

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs..... 4.20 to 16.00 |

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	5.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	5.50 to —
Swedish Bar	7.75 to —
Small Round Rod.....	6.00 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.....	6.25 to —
Wire 15/25	9.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	10.50 to —
Australian	10.15 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.....	40.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.....	40.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.....	40.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	89.00 to —
Tin	80.00 to —

Tin-Plates..... 7.75 to — |

Steel ½ to ½ 7.00 to — |

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	166.00 to —
Window Glass	6.20 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.86 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 6th July.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.....	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.50½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.55
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand.....	2.03½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149
Bank, on demand	149½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149
Bank, on demand	149½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight.....	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	2½ p. c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2½ p. c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½ p. c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	119½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3 p. c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½ p. c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.94
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53
BAR SILVER, per oz	23½

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—The market has shown a little more activity during the week, and a fair business has been transacted in some stocks, notably Steamboats, Kowloon Wharfs, and Lands. The crisis in the north however is still adversely affecting the market and general business is dull, with a tendency to somewhat lower rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 300 and 302 per cent. premium, sellers ruling the market at these rates for the whole week, and at time of closing shares are on offer at \$301. The latest London quotation is £53.10. Nationals remain unchanged with a small business at \$26½ and \$27.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been placed at \$57 and Unions at \$262½. Cantons and Straits remain unchanged and without business. Quotations for the Northern Insurance are taken from the last Shanghai Circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas continue very dull, with no sales to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao have been dealt in to some extent at \$33½ and \$30 for cash and at equivalent rates forward, market closing steady at \$30. Indo-Chinas have further receded to \$83 without business, Douglases continue on offer without bringing buyers into the market. China Mutuals (\$5 paid up) have been placed at £5.5s. and more are wanted. Preferences have also found buyers at £11 and close in demand. Star Ferry's rule steady at \$17½, with small sales and buyers.

REFINERIES.—Small sales of China Sugars are reported at \$120. Luzons continue unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms remain weak and neglected with but few sales at \$5.75. At time of closing shares are obtainable at the reduced rate of \$5.50. Olivers and Queens have been dealt in to some extent at quotations and a few Jebebus have been placed at \$12 and \$11½. Raubs have been enquired for in a small way at \$57, but few shares have been obtained at that rate, and the market closes with buyers at \$58. Great Easterns have found buyers at 40 cents. Charbonnages continue neglected with no sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks remain quiet at \$520 sellers and no sales to report, and a point or two under that rate would probably be accepted. Kowloon Wharfs have been in favour and a fair business has been transacted at \$83½ and \$84 cum new issue market closing firm at \$84. Wanchais unchanged with a small business. Amoy Docks have changed hands at \$21.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed in fair lots at \$136, \$136½ and \$137 ex and at \$161, 161½ and \$162 cum call of \$25. On time a few shares have changed hands at equivalent rates. Hotels after a long period of inaction have been in some demand, and small sales have been effected at \$123, \$124, \$125, \$126 and \$127; very few holders however care to part at these rates, as in anticipation of the interim dividend, now nearly due, higher ones are expected. West Points have found buyers at \$47 and \$47½, closing steady at \$47½. Humphreys have been dealt in to a small extent at \$10.75, closing with further sellers at that rate. Kowloon Lands unchanged and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs and Ewos are on offer locally at quotations. In the absence of local business in the other Northern Mills quotations are taken from the latest Shanghai Circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have dealt in to a fair extent at \$20½ and \$21, closing with sales and sellers at the former rate. China Borneos still in demand but without business close at \$28. Watsons, Ices and Electrics have changed hands at quotations in small lots. China Providents have been placed at \$9.85 and more are obtainable at the rate. Universal Trading Co., shares (a Company registered on the 23rd May last with a capital of \$1000,000 in 50,000 shares of \$20 cash, 5 paid up) are quoted at par.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	301 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares		\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$27, sales
Foun. Shares	28	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	21	\$14, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$20, sales & buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	10	\$9.85, sales & sells.
China Sugar	100	\$120.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 875.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Hongkong	100	\$34, sellers
Dairy Farm	8	\$84.
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	25	\$48, sales
Green Island Cement...	10	\$21, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$118.
Hongkong Electric	10	\$11.85, sales & sels.
H. H. L. Tramways	10	\$2.10.
Hongkong Hotel	100	\$170, buyers
Hongkong Ice	50	\$127, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	25	\$165, sales
Hongkong Rope	50	\$84, buyers c. new
H. & W. Dock	50	\$170.
Insurance—		518 p. ct. prem. =
Canton	50	\$772½, sellers
China Fire	20	\$132½.
China Traders'	25	\$79, sellers
Hongkong Fire	25	\$57, sales & buyers
North-China	50	\$295, sellers
Straits	225	Tls. 165.
Union	20	\$1, buyers
Yangtze	50	\$262½, sales
Land and Building—	80	\$121, sellers
Hongkong Land Inv.		
Humphreys Estate...	50	\$162, cum call
Kowloon Land & B.	10	\$10.75, sellers
West Point Building	30	\$25½, sales & sels.
Luzons Sugar	50	\$47, buyers
Mining—	100	\$36.
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$290, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	3	40 cents sellers
Do. Preference	1	35 cents
Jebebu	5	\$11½, sellers
Queen's Mines Ltd...	25c.	\$15c., sales & sels.
Olivers Mines, A...	5	\$24, sellers
Do. B...	4½	\$24, sellers
Punjom	7	\$5½, sellers
Do. Preference...	1	\$1.20.
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$58, buyers
New Amoy Dock	6½	\$21, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	50	{ \$65, old
China Mutual Pref.	210	{ \$18, sellers
China Ordinary	210	\$11.
Do.	25	\$10 10s, sellers
Douglas Steamship	50	\$5, 5s., sales & bys.
H., Canton and M...	15	\$45, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and		\$83, sellers
Trading Co.	2100	\$2300, sellers
Star Ferry	10	{ \$17½, old buyers
Tebrau Planting Co...	5	{ \$4½, new sellers
Do.	3	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	4	\$3.
D.	10	\$84.
Wanchai Warehouse...	10	\$11, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	37½	\$57, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$10.
	10	\$154, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th July.—During the past fortnight freights have remained steady. Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul was obtainable at the commencement of this week, but at the present moment there is no demand owing to the high price of rice in Saigon; to Philippines several steamers have been chartered at 47/50 cents per picul, and more tonnage can be placed at 45 cents per picul, Saigon to Java, 40 cents per picul last. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents per picul is obtainable. Newchwang to Canton, 43 cents per picul. Coal freights.—Moj

to Hongkong, \$3.40 per ton, firm to Singapo \$3.50 per ton. Sailing vessels.—Tonnage is wanted for New York, and 17s. 6d. to 18s. will probably be paid.

The following are the settlements:—

Quarta—German steamer, 1,148 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 43 cents per picul.

Forest Dale—British steamer, 2,385 tons, Karatz to Manila, 5 yen per ton.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$3.50 per ton.

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.40 per ton.

Chittagong—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.47 per ton.

Tientsin—British steamer, 1,250 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.40 per ton.

Fooksang—British steamer, 991 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.40 per ton.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.40 per ton.

Shantung—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to Manila, 45 cents per picul.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Saigon to two ports Philippines, min—40,000 piculs, 61 cents per picul.

Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 50 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to one port, 47 cents, two ports Philippines, 51 cents per picul.

Taifu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to one port, 47 cents, two ports Philippines, 50 cents per picul.

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Saigon to two ports Philippines, 45 cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Chunsang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, monthly 12 months, \$8,000 per month.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$7,500 per month.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, monthly 12 months, at \$6,500 per month.

Dr. Hans Jurg Kiaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$8,850 per month.

Calanda—Norwegian steamer, 680 tons, monthly, 12 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Dardanus (str.).

FOR LONDON.—Bengal (str.), Benalder (str.), Pyrrhus (str.), Stentor (str.), Menelaus (str.), Calchas (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Sydney (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Marburg (str.), Wittenberg (str.), Savoia (str.), Sibiria (str.), Nurnburg (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Kinshiu Maru (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of Japan (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Argyll (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Gaelic (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Albenga (str.), Acara (str.), Ettrickdale (str.), L. Schepp.

FOR SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Thyre (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.), Taiwan (str.), Eastern (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—Bismarck (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Arratoon Apar (str.), Chelydra (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—

ARRIVALS.

- 30, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
 30, Kwangse, British str., from Canton.
 30, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 30, Else, German str., from Canton.
 30, Prungurth, British str., from Moji.
 30, Princeton, U.S. gunboat, from Manila.
 30, Laos, French str., from Shanghai.
 30, Armenia, German str., from Amoy.

July—

- 1, Chiyuen, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
 1, Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Kinahin Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 1, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 1, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
 1, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Holland, Dutch cr., from Tanjong Priok.
 1, Choyssang, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Fooksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 1, Calchas, British str., from Singapore.
 1, Bengloe, British str., from Singapore.
 1, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
 1, Hinsang, British transport, from Taku.
 2, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
 2, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 2, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 2, Benvenue, British str., from Moji.
 2, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
 2, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 2, Merionethshire, British str., from London.
 2, Kwangping, Chinese str., from Canton.
 2, Chunshan, British str., from Saigon.
 2, S. P. Hitchcock, Amr. str., from Yama.
 2, P. C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 3, Sarpodon, British str., from Liverpool.
 3, Minterne, British str., from Moji.
 3, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 3, Wingsang, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Macedonia, British str., from London.
 3, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.
 3, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
 3, Kurdistan, British str., from Manila.
 3, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 3, Deuteros, German str., from Touron.
 3, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 3, Natuna, Danish str., from Singapore.
 4, Savoia, German str., from Hamburg.
 4, Kiangsi, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
 4, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
 4, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 4, Bellerophon, British str., from Straits.
 4, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
 4, Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
 4, Dardanus, British str., from Yokohama.
 4, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 4, Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.
 4, Progress, German str., from Quinhon.
 4, Taiyo Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo.
 4, Victoria, Swedish str., from Chefoo.
 4, Plover, British str., from Singapore.
 4, Tientsin, British str., from Chinkiang.
 4, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 4, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 5, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
 5, Taishun, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
 5, Lianshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 5, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 5, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 5, Sambia, German str., from Foochow.
 5, Ettrickdale, British str., from Amoy.
 5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 5, Maidsura Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 6, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 6, Malta, British str., from London.
 6, Phra C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
 6, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
 6, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 30, Brooklyn, U.S. battleship, for Taku.
 30, Quarta, German str., for Newchwang.
 30, J. B. Walker, Amr. snip, for New York.
 30, Ragnar, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 30, Fausang, British str., for Singapore.
 30, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Phranang, British str., from Bangkok.
 30, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 30, Zafiro, Amr. des-ves., for Taku.

July—

- 1, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 1, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Chowfa, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Princeton, Amr. gunboat, for Canton.

- 2, Laos, French str., for Europe.
 2, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
 2, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Ulysses, British str., for London.
 3, Banca, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Calchas, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Armenia, British str., for Singapore.
 3, Mazagon, British str., for London.
 3, Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.
 3, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 3, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
 4, Chingtu, British str., for Foochow.
 4, China, German str., for Saigon.
 4, Machew, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Argyll, British str., for Portland.
 4, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 5, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 5, Michael Jensen, German str., for Hoihow.
 5, Sarpodon, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Else, German str., for Chefoo.
 5, Pronto, German str., for Newchwang.
 5, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 5, Hokoku Maru, Jap. str., for Chinkiang.
 5, Freiburg, German str., for Yokohama.
 5, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 5, Sullberg, German str., for Newchwang.
 5, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 5, Taiyo Maru, Jap. str., for Canton.
 5, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 5, Victoria, Swedish str., for Canton.
 5, Taishun, Amr. str., for Canton.
 5, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 5, Choyssang, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Kiangsi, Chinese str., for Canton.
 5, Lianshing, British str., for Canton.
 6, Milos, German str., for Vladivostok.
 6, Merionethshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
 6, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 6, Pekin, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Plover, British gunboat, for Taku.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Laos*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. Blum, Colonel F. Browne, Mr. S. Harrison, Major and Mrs. Jeffreys, Mr. R. Borthwick, Mrs. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. von Ruffin; from Kobe, Mr. Hamilton Smythe; from Nagasaki, Mr. R. P. de Ueva and d'Alonza and Mr. Nakamura; from Shanghai, Messrs. Piot and G. Wemmana, Mrs. E. Holworthy, two children and amah, Mrs. A. E. Wadman and amah, Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. Jacquim, Lieut. (Viscount) Suidale, H.E. Sir Hy. Blake (Governor of Hongkong), Lady Blake, two daughters and maid, Mrs. Allen, Revs. R. P. Villemot and P. Chapelain, Mrs. Remedios and three children, Messrs. J. Moses Kasorla and Rees Lewis; for Saigon, from Nagasaki, Messrs. C. Labaux and Fraize; from Shanghai, Baronne de Fetenborn and two children, Mrs. Chazabon and two children, Mrs. and Miss Lodstalet; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. J. Nakamishi; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Gome and Smogarma, Mrs. Iseki and Mrs. Kanagawa; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Robertson; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Muracour, Takamatsa, Matsui, T. Saito, M. Mouya, Y. Mori, Minobe, A. Kizaki, Makumara, Suzimoto, Hatano, Yamada, Mr. and Mrs. Hrag, Mrs. de Carcer and two children; from Kobe, Mr. S. Arakawa; from Nagasaki, Capt. Lindsey; from Shanghai, Mrs. Crawford Kerr, Messrs. N. Daniloff and Rouffart, Mrs. Piot, Messrs. Pellegrini and Hamaide, Mrs. Hespel and infant, Mr. Loustalet, Mrs. C. F. Johnston, R. P. de Costa, Mr. B. Akemara and Rev. P. Feron.

Per *Tonkin*, from Saigon, Messrs. Baesens, Bels, Bass and wife, Nicol, Aggery, Florices, De la Roche and Kerandran.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mr. Primo Gaffard, Lieut. W. G. Hamnum, Augustin Ramos, Mr. Looker, H. T. Begley, Mrs. M. Stetzen, Mrs. Cera Merlon, Mrs. Alice Flynn, Messrs. O'Brian Joaquin Paggao, Fernando Gangan, Campbell, J. San Augustin, F. Dean, Thomas Monahan, and 121 Chinese.

Per *Merionethshire*, from Singapore, Messrs. James Glassow and F. Hodginson.

Per *S. P. Hitchcock*, from Yokohama, Mr. Howard Hullon.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from London, &c., Mrs. Christian and Miss Bolton.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Messrs. Henry McPhee, P. V. Mitchell, A. D.

Atebarilli, Freimann, Rev. Father, Messrs. L. Deane, A. Stephenson, Miss Thomas, Mrs. C. M. Thomas, child and amah.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. C. Clift, Dr. J. T. Kennedy, Dr. G. A. Costigan, Mr. Ross Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Le Munyon, Mr. J. Ealick, Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Clayton, Mrs. Chang, Mrs. T. W. Chang, Miss K. Pereira, Comdr. F. P. Gilmour, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Campbell and child, Mr. W. Rivington, Dr. E. Davis, Dr. G. A. Lung, Lieut. W. H. Alderdice, Lieut. H. B. Grant, Mr. L. Fook Gook, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Carvalho and daughter, Mr. J. H. Claiborne, Mr. C. Schlesinger, Mr. A. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Chang Yin Tung, Messrs. A. White, Chas. Metzger, E. Metzger, J. H. Sheahan, E. M. Barton, W. N. Swarthout, and L. E. Rivers and 158 Chinese.

Per *Taishun*, from Shanghai, Mr. Dewsbury and 130 Chinese.

Per *Haiching*, from Foochow, &c., Miss Renault, Mrs. and Miss Le Gall, Mrs. Gigan-ton and two children, Mrs. and Miss Le Gris, Mrs. Renault and child, Messrs. Renault, Varen, M. S. Varen, D. Macgowan, Mrs. and Miss Haesloop, Messrs. J. N. Ollia, C. F. Smith, and 195 Chinese.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Playfair, Mrs. Ito Yuki, Miss Maddison, Rev. A. Gomes, Mrs. Tyler, Mr. F. D. Baretto, Miss Hornby, Mr. A. Rely; for Penang, Mr. Getley; for London, Miss Fenner and Mr. T. Murray.

DEPARTED.

Per *Yuensung*, for Manila, Rev. William L. Hornsby, Messrs. I. Rivera and Blas Reyes.

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